

2-week-old baby given baboon heart

LOMA LINDA, California (R) — Surgeons have given a two-week-old baby girl the heart of a baboon in what they said could be a last resort to save her life. The girl, identified only as "Baby Fae," was born with the left side of her heart undeveloped. Doctors at Loma Linda University Hospital, where the seven-hour transplant operation was performed Friday, said such babies usually die within a few months. A hospital spokesman said a baboon's heart was chosen because of its similarity to a human heart and that a one-year-old baboon had been selected for the operation after five days of tests. The surgeons said they knew of only four other operations in which the heart of a primate had been transplanted into a human and in each case the patient had died after a few days. But the four had all been adults and the immature immune system of babies lowered the chance of rejection.

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Kuwaiti doctors urge boycott of Iran

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Medical Society, embracing all the nation's doctors, Saturday urged an international boycott of Iran in protest over the reported killing and wounding of Iraqi prisoners of war there. "We appeal to the Arab and international conscience to boycott all dealings with the Iranian rulers... this action is a blow to all Muslims and to humanity at large," the society said in a statement carried by the Kuwaiti News Agency (U.S. condemns POW killings, page 2)

Indian, S. Yemeni leaders hold talks

ADEN (R) — Indian President Zail Singh and South Yemeni leader Ali Nasser Mohammad Saturday discussed ways of boosting relations between their two countries and the political situation in the region, officials said. Mr. Singh, who arrived here earlier Saturday on a three-day visit, told reporters his trip aimed at consolidating the "friendly and good" ties already existing between India and South Yemen. He is due in North Yemen Monday.

Supreme Soviet to meet on Nov. 27

MOSCOW (R) — The Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Union's parliament, will meet on Nov. 27 for its annual budgetary session to approve Kremlin expenditure. Moscow Radio said Saturday. A meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee normally precedes the parliamentary session, one or two days to outline the measures which the Supreme Soviet will ratify.

Special Soviet envoy meets Wu

PEKING (R) — Special Soviet envoy Leonid Ilyichov discussed normalising relations between Peking and Moscow with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian Saturday, the official New China News Agency (NCNA) reported. The meeting, which was not announced in advance, coincided with the latest round of talks between Chinese and Soviet negotiators aimed at rebuilding ties soured by 25 years of antagonism and mutual distrust. Mr. Ilyichov, 78, a deputy foreign minister who heads the Soviet negotiating team, arrived in Peking in the middle of the month.

Freed journalist leaves Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — French television journalist Jacques Abouchar has been released and flown to Paris, state-owned Radio Kabul reported Saturday. A Pushtu-language newscast monitored in Islamabad said Mr. Abouchar, 53, a senior reporter for the French network Antenna Two, was released on the order of President Babrak Karmal. A French plane flew him to Paris, the radio said. Mr. Abouchar was sentenced by an Afghan military court Oct. 20 to 18 years in prison for entering Afghanistan without a visa. He had been captured Sept. 16, after entering Afghan territory from the border post of Chaman, in southwest Pakistan. Three colleagues escaped.

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Arafat returns to Tunis for crucial round on PNC

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

TUNIS — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat returned to his Tunis headquarters Saturday to prepare for meetings on where to hold a Palestine National Council (PNC) session, PLO officials said.

Mr. Arafat said in Amman on Thursday that His Majesty King Hussein had confirmed that Jordan was ready to host the session, originally set for Algiers. PLO sources said the organisation had yet to decide whether to take up Jordan's offer, and some officials still preferred Algiers. Iraq has also offered to host the session.

With the PLO split into three rival groups, Mr. Arafat has been trying since February to convene a 17th PNC session to reassert his leadership, but opposition from Syria and the anti-Arafat factions it supports have forced repeated delays.

Representatives of Mr. Arafat's majority Fatah commando group are due to meet officials of the "democratic alliance" of four Palestinian groups in Tunis this weekend to discuss convening the PNC, according to PLO sources.

But, according to PLO sources in Damascus contacted by the Jordan Times, the proposed meeting was to be held in Algiers, and not in Tunis, as reported by PLO sources. A delegation representing the "democratic alliance" left the Syrian capital for Algiers Saturday to take part in the proposed meeting, the Damascus sources said.

The sources added that the delegation included Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Abdul Rahim Mallouh, member of the politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) which is headed by George Habash, Suleiman Al Najab of the Palestinian Communist Party (PCP) and Ahmad Nijm of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF). The DFLP, the PFLP, the PLF and the PCP are the four factions that make up the "democratic alliance."

The alliance has proposed that a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) be held before convening the PNC. The PNC acts as the link between the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC and its decisions are considered recommendations rather than binding on various PLO institutions including the Executive Committee. Mr. Arafat and his loyalists are said to be opposed to holding the Central Council meeting on organisational grounds.

The "democratic alliance" proposal envisages the setting up of a special committee, to be chaired by PNC Speaker Khalid Al Fakhri, to settle the differences between the two groups before convening the PNC, according to the Damascus sources.

Earlier this month, Mr. Hawatmeh ruled out the possibility of the PNC meeting being convened in Amman or Baghdad and said he wanted the venue to be Algiers. Also, at the end of a week-long meeting of the alliance in Aden last Wednesday, its leaders announced that they would attend the planned PNC session, regardless of an announced boycott by the "national alliance" of Sa'iq, the PFLP-GC led by Ahmad Jibril, the Popular Struggle Front (PSF) and rebels within the Fatah movement who are supported by Syria.

Representatives of the "national alliance" were in Aden Saturday holding talks with the South Yemeni leadership on the inter-Palestinian rift. Mr. Jibril, Sa'iq Secretary-General Issam Al Qadhi, PSF leader Samir Ghoshe and Fatah rebel Colonel Sa'd Musa (Abu Musa) arrived in the South Yemeni capital Thursday evening, according to the Aden News Agency (ADN).

South Yemen and Algeria have mediated the inter-PLO rift which stemmed from differences between Mr. Arafat and the Syrian leadership. However, their efforts have apparently failed to reconcile the PLO chairman and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Officials in Aden said South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad stressed in talks Friday night with the leaders of the "national alliance" the need to preserve PLO unity and to strengthen its relations with Syria.

They said Mr. Mohammad also emphasised the need for dialogue to heal the rift within the organisation. No further details were available on the talks between the "national alliance" and South Yemeni leaders, but it was believed that Aden was seeking to talk the alliance into accepting an organisational and political agreement between Fatah and the "democratic alliance."

The agreement, reached in Aden in June and initiated in Algiers in mid-July, stipulates that the "democratic alliance" will attend the planned PNC session in exchange for reforms within the organisational and political structure of the PLO.

However, in its announcement in Wednesday in Aden, the "democratic alliance" made its participation in the PNC contingent on the venue being the North Yemeni capital of Sana'a, Algiers or Aden, and on the "national alliance" dropping its demand for the resignation of Mr. Arafat as PLO chairman.

Algeria had agreed to host the PNC in Algiers in September, warned by Syria that such a meeting would formalise PLO splits, sought a postponement.

Mr. Arafat says Algeria will have a last chance to resolve the split on Thursday when leaders of the eight PLO constituent factions attend 30th anniversary celebrations of the Algerian revolt against French rule.

Officially, Mr. Arafat's aides say they are still waiting for a response from the Algerian leadership, but privately some say they have lost hope that Algeria will say yes.

Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee and a close adviser to Mr. Arafat, will be heading the commando movement's delegation to the Algiers meeting with the "democratic alliance."

PLO sources in Amman told the Jordan Times. In previous meetings with the alliance, Khalil Wazir, deputy military commander of the PLO, headed the Fatah delegation. Mr. Wazir is also a member of the Fatah Central Committee.

Leaders of various Palestinian institutions, trade unions and other organisations are expected to meet in Tunis next week to discuss the PNC session, the sources added.

Mr. Berri, leader of the Shi'ite "Amal" (Hope) movement, appeared angered by a decision to cancel state subsidies on fuel, one of several austerity measures taken to boost state revenue and bolster the Lebanese pound.

His statement came amid fighting and shelling in the mountains above Beirut between militiamen and the army and mostly Christian rightwing forces that could be heard in the capital.

Mr. Berri, whose followers are mainly impoverished Shi'ites in Beirut's southern suburbs, told reporters he was leaving the country and would decide on his return whether to remain in the "national unity" cabinet.

He said he was also angered by the Education Ministry's failure to take on some 2,000 schoolteachers, many of them Shi'ites, who work as poorly-paid part-timers.

He said he was also angered by the Education Ministry's failure to take on some 2,000 schoolteachers, many of them Shi'ites, who work as poorly-paid part-timers.

They said official warnings would be served on foreign governments and shipping firms that Lebanese forces would strike at any ship violating the Lebanese government resolution limiting all imports to the nation's "legitimate ports."

Most ships have been using militia-run harbours since the 1975 outbreak of the civil war, stripping the state treasury of hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes and customs duties.

In another development, Public Transport Director-General Abdullah Shehab announced Saturday that bus services will resume in Beirut on Monday for the first time in 14 months.

A transport official told Reuters services would start up with 15 buses which survived recent sectarian fighting — the only ones available to serve Beirut's one million inhabitants.

Mr. Mitterrand told a news conference in London shortly before he left at the end of a four-day state visit that France had not yet decided how it will vote on the resolution being prepared on the Falklands, whose sovereignty is disputed by Britain and Argentina.

The resolution is expected to call for talks on sovereignty. Mr. Mitterrand said France's attitude would be "judged on the basis of the resolution text" when it is finally published. He said discussions were now "in the stage of diplomacy" and France was working to make it acceptable to both Britain and Argentina.

Prime Minister Thatcher's aides said that during 90 minutes of talks with the French leader Wednesday, she emphasised the importance of the vote to Britain. Britain steadfastly refuses to discuss sovereignty of the Falklands, invaded by Argentina in 1982 and recovered by Britain after a 74-day war.

France and other European Common Market nations have abstained during voting on previous U.N. resolutions along these lines.

But Mr. Mitterrand said in answer to questions by reporters that a number of questions remained, including whether sovereignty of the Falklands was negotiable.

He said U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar might be able to bring Britain and Argentina closer to resume discussions held before the 1982 war. He said France had to consider its relations with both countries and

Latin America as a whole. Mrs. Thatcher told parliament Friday night in a written answer to a legislator's question that she told Mr. Mitterrand Britain was not prepared to negotiate with Argentina over sovereignty.

Earlier during his news conference, Mr. Mitterrand said he wished the affair of the explosives planted in the grounds of the French embassy — which Scotland Yard blamed on a French bomb disposal expert testing British security — had not happened.

Two small explosive charges, without detonators, were found on the grounds of the French embassy residence Tuesday by Scotland Yard dogs.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Saturday receives U.S. Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost in Cairo (AP wirephoto)

Mubarak, Armacost discuss Egypt-Israel relations, Lebanon

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Saturday discussed the prospect of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, Egypt's ties with the Jewish state and the West Bank situation in a 90-minute meeting with U.S. Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost.

Confirming these issues were covered in his talks with Mr. Mubarak, the U.S. official said "we found a convergence of views on a lot of issues as you expect among good friends." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Armacost, whose talks with Mr. Mubarak were attended by

the U.S. Ambassador in Egypt Nicholas Veliotis, arrived here from Amman Thursday night on his current 10-day tour of the region, his first since his appointment in May to the State Department post.

Mr. Armacost later saw Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and said afterwards their discussions had covered his talks in Jordan and Israel earlier this week and the situation in Lebanon.

He also told reporters that Richard Murphy, the U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Near East affairs, was due back in the region shortly. He did not say when, nor

which countries Mr. Murphy plans to visit.

In another development, Egyptian Defence Minister Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala said Saturday the Egyptian navy and the United States Sixth Fleet will hold joint manoeuvres in the Mediterranean Nov. 5-7.

The exercise, codenamed "Sea Breeze," will involve 17 U.S. vessels, including aircraft carriers, and will consist of a simulated "intensive attack" on Egypt by air and naval forces, including F-14 and F-15 fighter bombers, Marshal Abu Ghazala said.

'Britain seeks renewed peace moves'

TEL AVIV (AP) — On the eve of his first visit to Israel, British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe said Saturday Britain was looking forward to United States leadership after the Nov. 6 presidential elections to renew the Middle East peace process.

"We are most anxious to do the best we can to encourage the search for peace. At this stage we don't have an engine to make it run," said Mr. Howe in an Israeli Radio interview pre-recorded in London.

Britain was "very glad" United States President Ronald Reagan told the United Nations General Assembly last month his country

"would try to push the peace process after the elections. His interest gives it the best chances of getting off the ground in the near future."

Mr. Howe also indicated Britain was considering lifting an embargo on weapons sales to Israel placed in 1982 to protest Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

"It certainly is something that should be and is subject to review," he said.

Mr. Howe was scheduled to arrive in Israel Sunday evening for three days of talks with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and other cabinet members and a tour of the Galilee region.

Israeli officials have said the talks were expected to focus on exploring prospects for an Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon. They have indicated that the talks may include possible British participation in the United Nations Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) after an Israeli pullout.

Mr. Howe said Britain had "great concern for the prospects of peace in the Middle East." He reaffirmed Britain's policy that a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict had to be found that would respect Israeli "security needs" and recognise Palestinian rights for self-determination.

WEU lifts arms curbs on W. Germany

ROME (AP) — The Western European Union (WEU) of seven North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members on Saturday formally decided to lift all remaining controls on the production and stockpiling of conventional weapons by West Germany.

The controls had been imposed on West Germany after the end of World War II. The WEU was established in 1948 to serve as a watchdog over West German rearmament.

The WEU decision was contained in a final document issued at the end of a two-day meeting of foreign and defence ministers of the group's member countries — Britain, France, Italy, West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich-Genscher said,

however, that the decision will not alter his government's longstanding policy on armaments.

"We have no intention of producing strategic weapons," Mr. Genscher told a news conference. He said he will outline his government's position again before the West German legislature on Nov. 8.

The preliminary agreement to abolish the restrictions was first announced after a WEU meeting in Paris on June 27. On Saturday, the WEU ministers formally approved that agreement and set the timetable for its implementation.

The document said the ministers felt the restrictions were "superfluous" and that they had decided "to abolish gradually the remaining quantitative controls on conventional weapons."

They said these controls should be "substantially reduced" by Jan. 1, 1985, and entirely by Jan. 1, 1986.

However, conference officials said the restrictions "for all practical purposes will be thrown out" by next spring.

The document also said "commitments and controls" concerning nuclear, biological and chemical weapons will be maintained.

In practical terms, the WEU decision would mean that West Germany will now be allowed to build surface ships larger than 6,000 tons and submarines larger than 1,000 tons, according to West German sources.

The ministers issued two documents — a "Rome Declaration" pledging to strengthen "the European pillar of the Atlantic alliance" and a statement outlining their agreement to revive the WEU.

British-French rift emerges over Falklands

LONDON (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand of France has returned home from a state visit to Britain, leaving a bizarre affair of planted explosives still not fully explained and new disagreement reportedly brewing with Britain over the Falklands.

The London Times reported Saturday that what it called his equivocal refusal to commit the French government to support Britain in next week's debate on the Falklands at the United Nations General Assembly "must be infuriating for Mrs. Margaret Thatcher."

Mr. Mitterrand told a news conference in London shortly before he left at the end of a four-day state visit that France had not yet

decided how it will vote on the resolution being prepared on the Falklands, whose sovereignty is disputed by Britain and Argentina.

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Earlier during his news conference, Mr. Mitterrand said he wished the affair of the explosives planted in the grounds of the French embassy — which Scotland Yard blamed on a French bomb disposal expert testing British security — had not happened.

U.S. ready to resume relations with Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is prepared to resume diplomatic relations with Iraq, a U.S. State Department official has said.

When questioned about reports that Iraq has informed the United States that it is ready to reestablish full diplomatic relations with the United States after a 17-year interruption, State Department spokesman John Hughes said that "we have made clear over a period of time that we certainly are prepared to do so and there have been some public statements by leaders in Iraq that they are contemplating that. But I don't have anything on when that will take place."

Iraq has informed the United States that it is ready to reestablish full diplomatic relations later this

year after a 17-year interruption, according to official sources.

The Iraqi decision was conveyed to Secretary of State George Shultz by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz at the United Nations early this month, the sources said. Mr. Aziz reportedly expressed a willingness to come to Washington at an early date to cement the resumed relationship and make a public announcement but was asked to put the visit off until after the U.S. election because of the "tight schedule" of President Ronald Reagan. State Department officials said the United States would welcome the res-

umption of diplomatic ties with Iraq. One official said it would be a sign that Washington can improve its relations with Arab nations even while maintaining very close ties to Israel.

During the last three years the Reagan administration has moved step by step to improve its relations with Baghdad, removing the country from the terrorist list and sending a procession of high-level visitors.

At the same time, the administration has taken an increasingly active role to halt the direct or indirect flow of military supplies to Iran. All this led the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to conclude in a recent staff report that "United States policy has tilted toward Iraq" since 1982.



Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (right) presents (left) with a gift at a luncheon Thursday to mark the end of Sir Urwick's term in Jordan (Petra photo).

U.K. ambassador ends term in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Ambassador Sir Alan Urwick left Amman for London Saturday following the end of a six-year term in Jordan.

Sir Alan is expected to take up his new post as British ambassador to Egypt early next year.

On Thursday Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri hosted a luncheon at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in honour of the British ambassador on the occasion of the end of his term in Jordan.

In two luncheon speeches both Mr. Masri and Sir Alan paid tribute to Jordanian-British relations and wished for continuous co-operation between the two countries. At the end of the celebration, Mr. Masri presented Sir Alan with a memorial present of the country.

Attending the banquet were a number of heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Jordan and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Earlier Thursday Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat received Sir Alan.

New ambassador

Sir Alan will be succeeded by Mr. John Coles, who is due to arrive here on Nov. 4 to take up his new post as Britain's new ambassador to Jordan.

Before being named as British ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Coles was holding the post of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's special secretary for Overseas Affairs.

Cyprus talks resume Nov. 26

UNITED NATIONS (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday night two rounds of talks on the future of Cyprus had made no substantive progress but a third round would begin on Nov. 26.

The statement was made through a spokesman at the end of the latest round of separate meetings of the U.N. chief has held since September with Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

The negotiations are aimed at working out a federal system of government for the ethnically divided island, which has been split into Greek and Turkish sectors since Turkish mainland troops invaded in 1974.

Israeli national unity government in trouble

TEL AVIV — Just six weeks after its formation, Israel's national unity government is in trouble.

The government has failed to reassure Israelis that it can resolve the nation's economic crisis or end its increasingly unpopular occupation of South Lebanon.

When the uneasy marriage of the rightist Likud coalition and the left-leaning Labour Party began, it was touted as the only way to produce a government strong enough to deal with the nation's most urgent problems. But the government's brief honeymoon has already ended in a storm of criticism from the press, economists, and financiers over its efforts to restore the economy.

There is growing speculation that this government may collapse long before its four-year term expires. The cabinet often appears

divided along party lines. A request from prime minister Shimon Peres last week that ministers refrain from criticizing the government publicly was reportedly rejected outright by Likud ministers.

Mr. Peres did not help his troubled government's image Monday when he gave a lackluster speech to the reconstituted parliament. He promised that the government would concentrate on restraining inflation and spurring economic growth. He urged Israelis to tighten their belts.

But the next day, the treasury announced a 24 per cent price increase for most subsidised staple foods and fuel. The increase will inevitably lead to an even more inflation, at least temporarily — Christian Science Monitor.

U.S. condemns killing of Iraqi PoWs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. State Department spokesman has condemned the reported slaying by Iranian Guards of Iraqi prisoners of war.

Jean-Jacques Kurtz, a Red Cross spokesman in Geneva, Switzerland, said on Thursday that three Red Cross representatives witnessed the shootings during a riot on Oct. 10 at the prison at Gorgan, a city near the Caspian coast, 383 kilometres north east of Tehran.

He quoted the witnesses as saying Iranian guards killed six Iraqi prisoners and wounded at least 35 inmates.

State Department Spokesman John Hughes said the United States supports the efforts of the Red Cross to relieve the suffering of Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war and their families.

"We condemn the current Iranian regime's execution and mistreatment of prisoners of war as tragic violations of the Geneva Conventions," he said.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, in a letter circulated here on Friday, asked the U.N. secretary-general to send a mission to Iran to investigate reports of the killing and wounding of Iraqi prisoners of war.

Mr. Aziz wrote Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that although Iran is a party to the 1949 Geneva Convention on the Humane Treatment of Prisoners of War, it "has continued to perpetrate crimes and murder against the inmates of prisoner-of-war camps or prisoners before they reach those camps."

Mr. Aziz's letter, dated Oct. 25, said, "in registering its protest about the perpetration of this crime by the Iranian regime, Iraq requests you to send a mission to Iran to investigate the crime."

Iran on Friday signalled its willingness to soften conditions to end the 4-year-old Gulf war but warned that there will be no peace while Iraqi government remains in power.

Speaking to tens of thousands of

Muslim worshippers gathered for weekly prayers at Tehran University, Iran's Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili said Iran was prepared to drop some of the conditions to end the Iran-Iraq war.

"We don't want any water or land... we don't even want war compensation," he said.

Ardebili's speech was yet another departure from the stiff conditions set out by Iran shortly after the Iraqi invasion that triggered the war in September 1980.

Foreign observers here said his words reflected an increasingly accepted theory among Iranian officials that Tehran must make some concessions to rally international support for its main demands of ousting the Iraqi government.

Besides upsetting the Iraqi government, Iran has demanded economic compensations from Baghdad to cover war damages which Iranian officials estimate at over \$100 billion.

Mzali holds talks in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Muhammad Mzali Saturday held talks on the Gulf war and Middle East with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, officials said.

Mr. Mzali arrived in Kuwait from Bahrain for a short stopover as part of a tour of Gulf countries on his way home from the Far East.

He told the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency on his arrival that his talks with Bahraini leaders, including the Emir Sheikh Issa bin Sulman Al Khalifa, would cover bilateral relations.

In Qatar's capital, Doha, Mr. Mzali was quoted Saturday as saying he regretted the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war.

In an interview with the

Arabic-language daily newspaper Al Raya he said: "It is unjust to waste all these human and financial resources in a war for which no end seems to be in sight."

Asked about prospects for an end to the diplomatic boycott of Egypt by most of the Arab World for its peace treaty with Israel, Mr. Mzali said the decision to ostracise Cairo was taken by an Arab summit in 1978 and an end to this should be decided by another summit.

Answering a question about the next Arab summit, planned for next month in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Mzali said: "The holding and success of such a meeting depends on the aim behind it and on our readiness to discuss our issues reasonably and objectively and avoid marginal matters, particularly bilateral differences."

Arab ministers of interior to meet on Nov. 3

TUNIS (Petra) — Arab ministers of interior open a three-day meeting here on Nov. 3 to review recommendations of the Arab police chiefs issued in the first half of October.

The police chiefs had recommended a pan-Arab security plan aimed at combating forgery of passports, travel documents, currency, and infiltration across the borders.

The ministers' meeting will be preceded by one at the under secretaries' level on Oct. 29 which will prepare the agenda for the ministers.

Egypt plans to reduce food subsidies

CAIRO — The head of the U.S. aid programme here says the Egyptian government plans to forge ahead with its politically delicate policy of reducing massive food subsidies despite a protest riot over price increases at the end of last month in which at least one person was killed and 30 injured.

"This government is determined to tackle the problem of subsidies," said Michael P. Stone, following talks with a number of ministers. No economic issue is more sensitive to the Egyptians or to Western aid donors than the long-established tradition of the government subsidising basic food items, such as bread, cooking oil and sugar, to ensure social and political peace among this country's 48 million people.

This coming year food subsidies alone will cost the government more than \$2 billion, and the "hidden subsidies" for oil — the difference between local and world prices for the product — are estimated at more than \$3 billion.

Western aid donors have been concerned that President Hosni Mubarak would backslide on his policy of increasing consumer food prices after the riot in a Nile town on Sept. 30. The same day, Mr. Mubarak cancelled some price increases to prevent riots breaking out elsewhere.

However, Mr. Stone said he was "optimistic" after listening to ministers that the government planned to go ahead in implementing other price rises and cutting back on subsidies — Washington Post.

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Turkey to lift martial law in 7 provinces

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's National Security Council recommended Friday that the government lift martial law in seven of the nation's provinces, Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal announced.

Under the plan, five of those provinces would first be placed under a state of emergency rule for an interim period of four months, the premier told reporters after the council meeting. Martial law would continue in

34 of Turkey's 67 provinces for at least four more months, including in the major cities of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir, Mr. Ozal said.

The council's decision, after a review in the cabinet, will be submitted to the nation's one-house parliament for formal approval. If passed as is expected, it will go into force Nov. 19.

Currently, 11 of this NATO member nation's provinces are under emergency rule. The National Security Council, an advisory

body of cabinet members and top military commanders, decided to lift the rule in seven of those as well.

The state of emergency rule was introduced into the Turkish constitution in 1982.

Under the council's plan, martial law will be lifted in three major Anatolian provinces: Konya, Kayseri and Eskisehir. The other four provinces are Giresun, Manisa, Usak and Denizli.

Pravda: Soviet policy finds more favour among Arabs

MOSCOW (R) — Washington is losing face in the Middle East because its policy is aggressive while Moscow's approach to the region is becoming increasingly attractive to Arab states, the Soviet Communist Party daily newspaper Pravda said Saturday.

It cited a recent flurry of visits to Moscow by leaders and high-ranking ministers of several Arab countries as proof that Moscow's approach was gaining popularity and said a Soviet call for an international conference to resolve the region's problems had widespread support.

In the past few weeks alone, the Kremlin has been host to the presidents of Syria and North and South Yemen as well as the Iraqi foreign minister in what Western diplomats in Moscow regard as a determined bid to strengthen its role in the Middle East.

Pravda said that Arab leaders had "expressed both the desire to broaden cooperation with our country and approval for the Soviet plan for defusing the Middle East crisis."

It quoted King Hussein as saying a few days ago that he thought

the United States had lost authority in the eyes of Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

"Soviet foreign policy is becoming increasingly attractive to the Arabs since it meets their national aspirations and interests and aims to establish a durable and 'just peace' in the Middle East," Pravda said.

The Soviet proposal for an international conference to include Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was supported by "practically all the interested Arab countries, the PLO and many developing and European countries," it added.

But Israel and the United States were blocking the initiative, "thus demonstrating that they are not interested in bringing peoples of the Middle East back to normal life and continue to speak to the Arabs in the language of dictat," it said.

Pravda criticised a recent decision by Washington to give Israel \$1.2 billion in aid in the coming year, saying the money would be used on "anti-Arab adventures and prolonging one of the sharpest crises on the planet."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00	Koran
17:30	Cartoons
17:40	Children's Programmes
18:35	Children's Programmes
19:00	Local Programme
19:30	Programme Review
19:40	News Programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local programme
21:15	Arabic Series
22:25	Varieties
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Varieties Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00	French Programme: Tropicaire
19:00	News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Bob New Hart
21:00	Towards 2000
21:10	War and Peace - Eps. 16
22:00	News in English
22:15	Magnum

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM	& partly on 9500 KHz, SW
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Morning Show
11:00	Pop Session
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Instrumentals
15:00	Science Report
15:30	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Instrumental
17:00	Old Favorites
17:30	Listeners' Choice
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Jazz Hour
19:00	Newsdesk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:30	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show
22:30	News Summary
23:00	Evening Show
24:00	News Headlines

VOICE OF AMERICA

NW 1250, KHz, 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210

06:00	VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report, science and medicine, sports reports; VOA editorial and world and news; opinion roundups; documentary analysis; features (17:00-18:00) News Horizons and New Products 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News Horizons 18:15 International Viewpoints 18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:30 Sunday Report 20:30 Issues in the News 21:00 News 21:10 International Viewpoints 21:30 Music USA Standards 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Concert 22:30 News 22:30 News Horizons 23:00 News 23:30 Studio One
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

* An exhibition of Islamic ceramics from Italy at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Nov. 4).

SCIENTIFIC SERIES

* A special scientific series which explores the latest achievements in medicine and science at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre (Oct. 21, 24, 28).

PLAYS

* A mime play by the famous American actresses Dolly and Debby at the Royal Cultural Centre on Oct. 25, 28, 29, 30 and Nov. 1, 2.

* A Jordanian children's play entitled "A City Without Love" at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Oct. 27 and 30 respectively at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre	Tel. 6610267
American Centre	43771
American Centre Library	41520
British Council	36147-8
French Cultural Centre	37099
Goethe Institute	61793
Soviet Cultural Centre	44203
Spanish Cultural Centre	24049
Turkish Cultural Centre	39777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Hansen Youth City	667181
Y.W.C.A.	664251
Amman Municipal Library	36111
University of Jordan Library	843555

MUSEUMS

Forthare Museum: jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 15th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquity of Jordan. Jabel Al Ota (Cliffside Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, carvings, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 24590.

Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lweideh, 37440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.

Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 41559.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.

Armenian Apostolic Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist Church in Smekezi, 516534.

PRAYER TIMES

04:27	Fajr
05:49	(Sunrise) Duha
11:28	Zuhra
14:51	Asr
16:51	Maghreb
18:13	'Isha'

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

06:45 Larnaca, Berlin (IF)
02:15 London (BA)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

ARRIVALS

06:00	Calais (MS)
09:15	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
09:50	Beirut (RJ)
09:45	Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
10:00	Beirut (RJ)
10:30	Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
10:30	Tripoli, Larnaca (LN)
10:40	Kuwait (KU)
10:40	Larnaca (RJ)
10:40	Baghdad (IA)
10:45	Bruzzese, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:35	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna

17:35	London, Paris (RJ)
17:40	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
17:40	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00	Rome (RJ)
18:20	Cairo (RJ)
18:25	Beirut (MEA)
20:20	Aden (OA)
20:20	Cairo (MS)
06:45	Cairo (RJ)
01:00	London (BA)
01:10	Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:45	Cairo (RJ)
06:50	Beirut (RJ)
06:50	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00	Cairo (MS)
08:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:15	Beirut (MEA)
09:00	Damascus, Rome (AZ)
11:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:45	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30	Larnaca (RJ)
14:30	Cairo (RJ)
15:30	Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
15:40	Kuwait (KU)
16:00	Baghdad (IA)
17:00	Kuwait (RJ)
19:45	Dhahran
19:45	Bahrain, Muscat (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:45	Cairo (RJ)
21:10	Baghdad (RJ)
21:10	Cairo (MS)
22:00	Bangkok (RJ)
22:00	Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with clouds at different altitudes and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C	
Amman	19/10
Aqaba	20/18
Deserts	10/27
Jordan Valley	15/30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 28. Humidity reading: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance	193, 775111
Fire, fire, police	775111
Police	775111
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	22090-3
Police rescue	192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters	39141
Traffic police	56300-1
Electric Power Co.	36381-2
Municipal water service	771125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08) 53333

TAXIS:

Vinicia taxi	44584
Milroy taxi	44574
Shamsi taxi	665294
Asan taxi	844633
Jordan taxi	23050
Amman taxi	51424

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	813813-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	44281-4
Akshid Maternity, J. Amman	42441
Jabel Amman Maternity	42362
Mallat, J. Amman	40001
Palestine, Shamsi	66471-0
Shamsi Hospital	66931
University Hospital	845845
Dra Al-Safa, J. Hussein	667158
Al-Musheir Hospital	667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali	665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164
Kalshah, Al-Muhajreen	771103-3
Al-Badali, J. Ashrafieh	775111
Army, Madina	91611

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Ministry of Tourism	42311
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Cable or telegram	18
Repair service	11

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad H. Azam	818911

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple (small)	160/160
Apple (large)	190/190
Apple (stark)	190/190
Banana	280/240
Banana (Mukammal)	240/210
Bones	460/410
Broad beans	260/300
Cabbage	100/70
Carrot	120/80
Cauliflower (white)	110/80
Cucumber (large)	150/120
Cucumber (small)	240/300
Onion	150/120
Eggplant (large)	160/130
Eggplant (small)	150/130
Figs	350/300
Garlic	180/150
Grapes	300/250
Grapefruit	150/70
Green olives	430/380
Guavas	140/110
Lemon	120/90
Mallow	130/100
Marrow (large)	190/100
Macro (small)	220/180
Onion (dry)	160/130
Onion (green)	240/200
Olives	600/530
Olives (green)	420/360
Oranges (Abu Surra)	230/180
Oranges (Shamsi)	140/110
Parsley	100/100
Peanut	500/450
Pepper (sweet)	160/130
Pepper (hot green)	160/130
Potatoes (sweet)	250/200
Potatoes	200/170
Radishes	120/100
Spinach	220/180
Spiced Malon	130/100
Tomatoes	120/80
Water Melon	130/100

Home news

Al Hussein Society graduates first handicapped trainees

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony was held Friday for graduating 15 handicapped children who had completed a training course at a centre run by the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped in Amman.

Princess Majida Ra'd attended the graduation ceremony at which a variety programme was presented by the handicapped children. The centre's director, Ya'qoub Jibara, made a speech paying tribute to Princess Majida, the president of the society, and to the society's board members for their efforts to promote the centre's services and also thanked the British government for the financial and in-kind assistance extended to the centre and to the society to help train the handicapped children.

Director of the training programme Sharif Al Hamawi said that the graduates have had courses enabling them to handle a number of jobs, and appealed to various businesses and employers to find work for them.

The wife of the British ambassador later distributed the diplomas to the graduates, the first batch to end the society's training course at the centre.

The society was established in 1984 by the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund and King Hussein donated a plot of land for establishing the society. Also Oman offered financial contributions for the centre which contains various physiotherapy facilities, swimming pools and sports halls.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dollar forgers receive seven years

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Jordanians have been sentenced by the military court to seven years in jail with hard labour for forging dollars. The sentences on Rashed Mansour and Mohammad Qasem have been endorsed by the military governor.

ZDC outlines development projects

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Development Corporation (ZDC) Chairman of the Board Amin Al Khasawneh and chairman of its executive committee, Dr. Tayseer Ammari, met Saturday with heads and members of the Latin Convent in Zarqa and discussed a number of issues related to the development of the ZDC and its programmes. Mr. Khasawneh pointed out the corporation's role in setting up gardens and libraries throughout the Zarqa district as well as its contributions to carrying out the sports city project in the city.

Irbid prepares for planting season

IRBID (Petra) — The agricultural situation in Irbid Governorate as well as preparations for the coming agricultural season were the subject of discussion in a meeting held Saturday at Irbid department of agriculture under the chairmanship of the department's director, Dr. Nooriddin Al Shboul. During the meeting it was decided to hold intensive agricultural seminars throughout the governorate to instruct farmers on modern methods for growing cereals and also to define agricultural problems in each village in order to solve them.

Ministry plans to adopt secondary exam this year

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education is going ahead with plans to hold a general examination for students of the third preparatory class at the end of the current scholastic year with the purpose of selecting 60 per cent of those who pass to take academic courses in the first secondary class and onwards, Minister of Education Hikmat Al Saket said here Friday evening.

Speaking in an interview with Jordan Television, the minister said that the examination is being applied to those who finish the compulsory education stage in order to help the ministry organise the education process in the secondary stage.

The new measures will be applied in the East and West Banks but special legislation will be introduced to enable the ministry to apply the regulations on the West Bank in view of the current situation there, the minister said.

In reply to a question, Mr. Saket said that the examination has been imposed with a view to organising the society's human resources and to give training to part of the young people that would be most suitable for the needs of the Jordanian community, especially in development fields.

to take vocational training and can, if they wish, study at evening classes for higher education later on, Mr. Saket said.

More vocational schools

The ministry, Mr. Saket said, plans to establish 126 vocational schools and 47 handicraft training centres in various regions of the country to absorb as many students as possible.

The interview followed complaints by the public and in the press that the proposed examination will limit the opportunities of education for Jordanians. A petition has been sent by educationalists and leading figures to Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat and parliament members urging them to annul the regulations for this exam. The petition said that the exam would cause many young Jordanians to become desperate and could turn them into law breakers or criminals if they remained without education or proper jobs in the future.

Dangerous indications

The present trend projects dangerous indications on the social infrastructure and certain measures have to be taken by the ministry to avoid mass unemployment among the young in the future, the minister said. He said that Jordan has started to face unemployment in specialisations which used to be rare in the past and the ministry, through wise planning, is trying to avoid similar consequences.

The minister explained that the examination is the only criteria which can help the ministry decide which students should take academic or vocational courses. The examination is not an interference in the freedom of individuals and does not constitute an obstacle in the path of anyone wishing to continue studies in the future, the minister pointed out.

He said that similar examinations are held for students in eight other Arab states and in several industrialised nations, such as the Soviet Union, Japan and France.

After completing the third preparatory class, the students will sit for an examination in six subjects, Islamic religion, Arabic, Mathematics, English, Social Studies and Science. Only 60 per cent of the male students and 70 per cent of the female students who pass will be allowed to take academic courses, while the others will have

Egyptian labour official lauds Jordan's restoration of ties, workers' conditions

AMMAN (Petra) — Vice President of the Egyptian Labour Federation Mukhtar Abdul Hamid said here Saturday that he will work towards bolstering cooperation between labour federations in Jordan and Egypt for the benefit of the workers in both countries. Mr. Abdul Hamid said that Egypt appreciates the good treatment and care accorded to Egyptian workers employed in Jordan.

Mr. Abdul Hamid, currently on a visit to Jordan to discuss cooperation in labour-related affairs, said that King Hussein's decision to restore relations with Egypt has had a great positive effect in Egypt and on the working class in particular. King Hussein's step came at a time when the Arab nation is

confronting dangers and external and internal conflicts which adversely affect the development process, Mr. Abdul Hamid said.

He called on Arab states to follow in Jordan's footsteps and to mobilise all efforts and resources for offering the Arab masses a better life and prosperity. The Egyptian Labour Federation supports measures taken by the Jordanian labour union aimed at achieving a better standard of living for the workers in Jordan, Mr. Abdul Hamid said.

Mr. Abdul Hamid earlier met with Mr. Samir Qardan, president of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, and discussed ways to launch cooperation between federations in Jordan and Egypt.

In a separate interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ahmad Dulcimi, president of the Iraqi Labour Federation paid tribute to the efforts of Jordanian workers for promoting the economic and social standards in Jordan. He said that the Iraqi federation seeks to bolster cooperation with the Jordanian federation and so contribute towards improving the standards of Arab workers in general. Delegations representing a number of Arab labour federations arrived in Amman Friday evening for a visit following the postponement of a general Arab labour unions meeting in Amman. A special programme has been prepared for these delegations to visit tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan.

Nabulsi opens final municipal training course

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi open here Saturday a five-day seminar for employees in municipalities in Amman and Balqa Governorates. Thirty participants are attending the seminar which is designed to orient them on regulations adopted by municipalities and to improve their

skills and performance. In a speech to the participants at the opening session, Mr. Nabulsi said that the success of a municipality depends largely on the duties and the competence of the municipal staff and also on the interaction between them and the public. The municipalities play a leading role in local government and deepen the sense of people's

belonging to their homeland, the minister said.

The seminar has been organised in cooperation with the Institute of Public Administration as was the case with the previous 19 seminars held earlier. With the completion of the current meetings, the ministry will have held courses and seminars for all employees in various governorates.

RCC exhibits photographs of Islamic pottery, ceramics

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of Islamic ornaments, organised by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Researches, Al al Bayt Foundation, in cooperation with the Friends of Archaeology Society, will open Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

On display at the week-long exhibition are 150 photographs from the national museum for oriental arts in Rome and the national museum in Pisa for ceramics and

pottery decorated with Islamic designs.

These ceramics and pottery were used to decorate the facades of religious buildings during the 11th and 14th centuries. The ceramics and pottery were transferred to Italy through trade with Islamic countries like Egypt, Tunis and Morocco. The exhibition was organised in Pisa in 1981 and in Rome in 1983.

Welfare official tours Madaba centres

MADABA (Petra) — Ministry of Social Development Under-Secretary Mohammad Ali Wardam made an inspection tour Saturday of social service centres in Madaba District Governorate which have been set up by the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund (QAJWF). Mr. Wardam reviewed the various sections, programmes and activities provided by these centres in the governorate. The centres make available social and economic services and qualify women in various professions to help them increase their incomes and improve living standards.

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Jobin reiterates

Canada 'flexible'

By Sala
Jordan T.

AMMAN — A senior official said Friday it could be reached with positions by the parties.

Director of the Middle Division at the Canadian Foreign Ministry Yvan Jobin said in an interview with the Jordan Times the current prospects for a solution "do not seem to be encouraging because of the lack of flexibility." However, Mr. Jobin said there is hope there will be some move after the U.S. presidential elections. He agreed the flexibility should be more on the side of Israel.

Mr. Jobin said that his government condemned the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories and described them as "contrary to international law."

Mr. Jobin who is currently on a fact-finding mission, which took him to Beirut and which will take him to Damascus, said his country always supported the right of Palestinian people

Bashir, Lawzi return from Cairo, Paris agriculture talk

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Mohammad Bashir returned to Amman Saturday at the end of a week-long working visit to Egypt. During his stay the minister held talks with his Egyptian counterpart and senior Egyptian officials on cooperation between Jordan and Egypt and the exchange of expertise in agriculture related affairs. He also toured a number of agricultural projects in Egypt.

Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Salem Al Lawzi returned to Amman Saturday after taking part in a meeting by governors of Arab funds for agricultural development, which concluded in Paris Friday.

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شركة معروض
للتجارات التركية

٦٦٨٥٩١ هاتف

Bangladesh imports disastrous floodwaters

Millions remain trapped in Bangladesh by floodwaters which came not from skies over that nation, but from deforested hillsides in India and Nepal. The floods threaten the very fabric of Bangladesh society.

By Nurul Huda

DHAKA — Floods which have kept Bangladesh under water since May have taken more than 550 lives, while over 30 million people remain marooned, according to official estimates. Reports of deaths due to starvation, diarrhoeal diseases, snake bites and drowning reach the capital daily.

Floods have damaged crops on 2.2 million hectares (5.5 million acres), destroyed half a million houses and killed "at least" 70,000 head of cattle, according to Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Professor Yusuf Ali. Almost all the nation's 460 sub-districts have been inundated, he said.

The disaster originated not in the skies over Bangladesh, but in the environmental degradation and mismanagement upstream in India and Nepal. According to meteorologist H.K. Chowdhury: "Only one-fifth of the total floodwater is contributed by inland rainfall, while the rest is contributed by the flood onrush flowing from surrounding Indian states."

Floods and their large death tolls are frequent events in Bangladesh, which is the world's largest delta, formed by the mighty Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers. At least 15 per cent of the population lives less than three metres above sea level.

But the real worry is that such disasters are becoming more frequent and more devastating, due to causes far outside this nation's control. The Himalayas are being deforested so rapidly that their slopes could become almost totally bare during the first half of the next century, according to the 1982 "State of the Indian Environment" report. As a consequence, average area annually flooded in India has increased from 25 million hectares (62 million acres) three decades ago, to 40 million hectares (100 million acres) today.

The deforestation increases erosion, with silt accumulating on the beds of the rivers entering Bangladesh. As a result the myriad rivers, streams and canals which criss-cross the country can

hold less and less water. But the denuded Himalayas soak up less water, leaving more for the riverbeds to cope with. This year the floods have had a devastating effect not only on individual victims, but on society and on the national economy.

Two women, Rashida Bibi and Zahura Bibi of Bepari Para village in the northern district of Sherpur, about 130 kilometres from the capital, are typical conservative rural Muslim women who never dreamed of visiting even the neighbouring village.

But they have been forced to migrate out of their district into the nearby district of Jamalpur. Used to living out of sight of str-

angers, they now share temporary shelter in the Jamalpur Municipality offices with 300-400 other refugees.

"We get a handful of wheat per head per day as relief", they said. "We don't know how long we will get such help. Shall we survive the flood havoc? How? The floods have washed away everything we had."

The government's allocation of the equivalent of about \$426 million in agricultural loans to farmers to plant new crops is a huge amount for a nation with a Gross National Product of only \$14 billion. An official five-year farm credit programme, for the benefit of small and marginal farmers, has also been announced. The credit scheme, over which rural landlords will have considerable control, will not be of any benefit to the landless. Their numbers have been increasing rapidly over recent years, as Bangladesh's population and environmental deterioration proceed apace.

A large procurement of 2.4 million tonnes of foodgrains from abroad, 800,000 tonnes in excess of the original 1984-85 import target, will have little impact on soaring grain prices. Seed prices are also rising, and the government seems unable to control them.

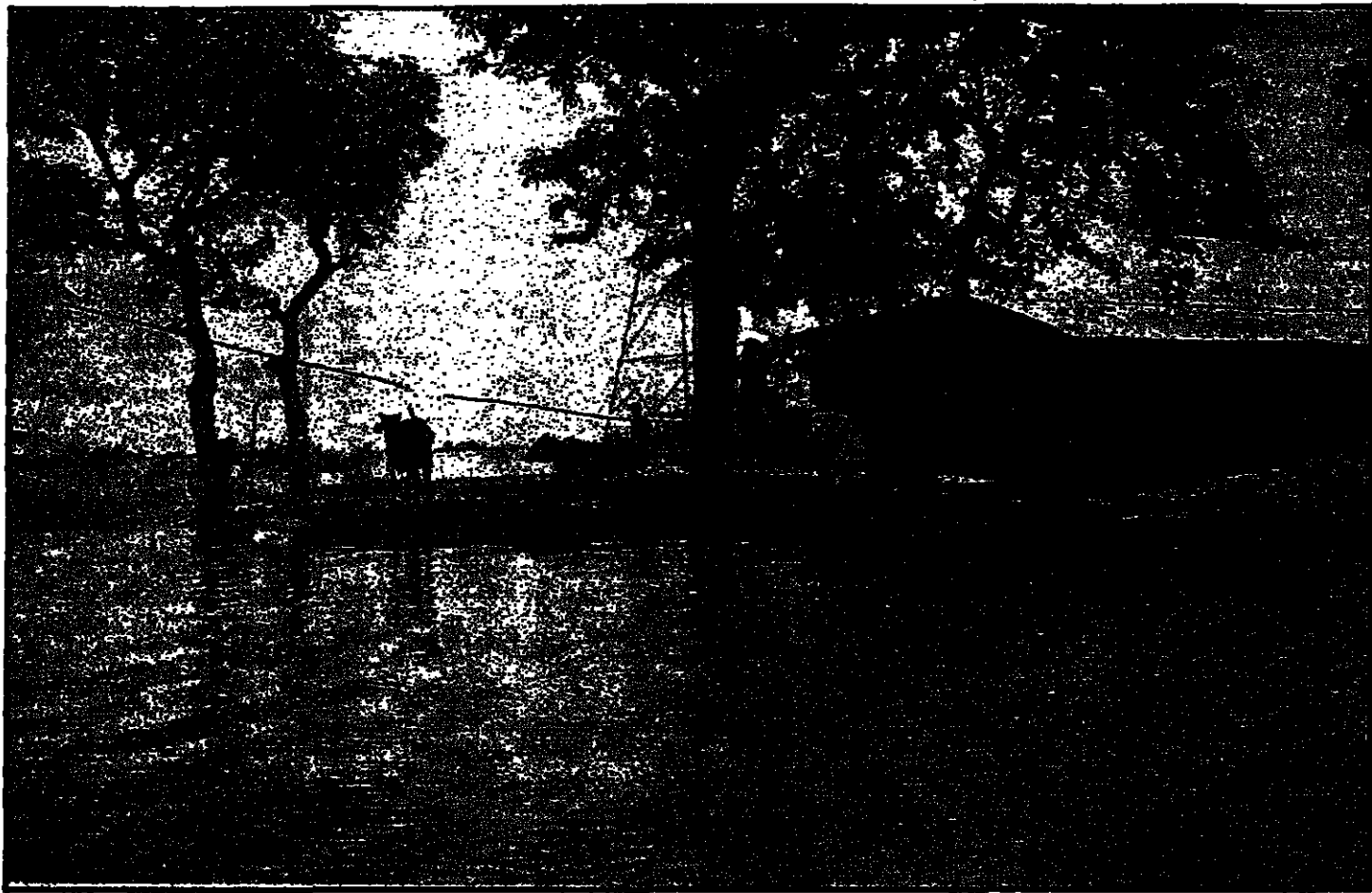
If the better off farmers cannot plant, there will be little money circulating in the countryside, where 90 per cent of the population of 97 million lives. Already people have begun flocking to nearby towns in large groups, living on railway station platforms, in school compounds and urban community centres. Such migration is expected to increase rather than decrease after the waters recede, because travel

is currently impossible, with millions trapped in the rafters of their huts.

The commissioner of one hard-hit district, who preferred to remain anonymous, said, "the migration of thousands of flood victims to the towns is likely to start after the floods go."

The rural people will need development aid to recover, but the government is considering slashing the annual rural development budget to pay for grain imports.

Facing the possibility of large-scale famine, the government must also consider that there may be no real recovery period. With the Himalayas' ability to store and gradually release water being weakened every year by deforestation upstream, there is no guarantee that more floods will not follow this one next monsoon season — Earthscan feature.



Anondanagar, five miles from Dacca is downstream from deforested hillsides, floods that could have been prevented destroy the livelihood of millions (Earthscan photo)

Backstreet abortionist may get more customers soon

By George Short
Reuters

LONDON — The backstreet abortionist who operate under cover in the urban slums of "Third World" cities could soon be receiving many more customers.

Officials of a major international family planning organisation argue that this will be one of the results if the Reagan administration goes ahead with a new policy which may mean cutting funds to some family planning associations.

The London-based International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), which groups national organisations in 118 countries and spends \$55 million a year on family planning in the Third World, is preparing plans to reduce operations if funds are cut. Loss of U.S. funding could slash the IPPF budget by 30 per cent.

"It would mean very severe curtailment of family planning in the 'Third World' and greater recourse to abortion," IPPF Information Director Frances Den-

nis told Reuters.

She said the IPPF had received word in the last few days from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) that it may have to cut funds, but the situation was not yet clear and she still had some hopes of a reprieve.

"If women living in poverty in Third World urban slums have no one else to turn to, they will return to the backstreet abortionist," she said.

If this proves true again, it would be an ironic twist, for some of the most stalwart supporters of the new Reagan policy are those who fervently oppose abortion.

The National Right to Life Committee, an anti-abortion organisation, has accused the IPPF of aggressively promoting abortion in developing countries, a charge denied by IPPF officials, who say their methods are based on voluntary consent.

The Reagan administration recently shifted its policy towards the view that free-market economics are more effective in holding down global population than

family planning.

An administration policy paper has said that the United States will no longer contribute to private organisations which perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other nations.

The new policy stance, which caused bitter controversy at a United Nations Conference on Population in Mexico City in August, could strike a heavy blow at the IPPF, which is one of the world's leading family planning groups.

Mr. Dennis said only 0.25 per cent of its budget was spent on abortion-related action but the IPPF's policy of leaving it to the individual countries to decide for themselves on population control methods was likely to remain unchanged.

She said the IPPF's budget committee felt that policy should be unchanged and would recommend this to a meeting of the IPPF's council next month.

At a later meeting here on Nov. 29 and 30 the IPPF will have its

annual discussions with officials of around 20 of its donor governments, mainly of Western industrial nations. Mr. Dennis did not know whether the United States would be represented.

As a result of the new U.S. policy the IPPF could lose \$16 million from USAID, which is 30 per cent of its annual budget, Mr. Dennis said.

She said contingency plans were aimed at trying to make the IPPF secretariat bear the brunt of a cut in funds. The IPPF has 130 full-time staff in London, many of them from "Third World" countries, and has a staff of 40 in New York.

But she added: "At least 40 per cent of the cuts will have to be borne in the field."

The IPPF makes grants to help family planning projects, and its workers are also involved directly in many developing countries.

Mr. Dennis said loss of USAID funds would be disastrous. "The people in the urban slums of the

Third World will be the main victims."

Ninety-seven per cent of the IPPF budget comes from government sources, she said, adding that the organisation may now have to look more towards private means of raising money.

IPPF official Jeremy Hamand told Reuters the world population was currently rising at the rate of 80 million a year and was calculated to peak in the year 2100 at 10 billion.

The main effect of a cut in funds would be an increase in human misery in the developing countries, he said.

According to its own literature, the IPPF supplies to its affiliate associations annually more than 17.5 million cycles of oral contraceptives, nearly 34 million condoms, almost 700,000 intra-uterine devices, 530,000 doses of injectable contraceptives and 10.5 million foaming tablets.

It also provides clinical, audio-visual and office equipment and transport.

Hundreds of Arab students are victim of U.S. degree

By E. Patrick McQuaid

WASHINGTON — Evidence that several hundred, "possibly thousands" of Arab students have purchased worthless academic credentials has surfaced in court documents filed by the American Justice Ministry against the operators of fictitious correspondence schools.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the chief law enforcement arm of the ministry, the false degrees run the full range from secondary school certificate through Ph.D. and even doctorates in medicine, law and engineering.

Posing as a student, special agent Otto Allen Ezell purchased 16 advanced degrees, including two in medicine, during the first two years of the FBI probe. About 45 fraudulent colleges have already been shut down and several persons convicted and imprisoned.

In most cases the colleges, known as diploma mills, require students to submit short statements about their academic achievements and goals, plus fees ranging from \$100 to several thousand dollars, in return for a certificate. Others simply sell the diplomas, transcripts of grades, and other credentials outright. Arab students, mainly Saudis, are probably not aware that the degrees they have purchased are worthless and their activities considered criminal.

Advertisements offering college, university and technical degrees, awarded solely on the basis of "life experiences" and requiring "no classroom attendance" have routinely appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the Gulf and Africa, according to Mr. Ezell. The colleges may have European or American addresses, but are generally mail-forwarding services and telephone answering machines.

The FBI first learned that Arab students were being victimised during their investigation of two diploma mills, the American Nat-

ional University of Phoenix, Arizona, and the American International University of Miami, Florida. Both were run by Clarence Edwin Franklin from Phoenix and the Miami address is thought to be the front for several other colleges now under investigation.

In March 1983 an American Navy lieutenant serving as a special adviser in the Gulf wrote to the Florida State Education Ministry asking for an inquiry into the two colleges. He wrote that an officer had been actively recruiting Saudi Navy personnel as correspondence students. As evidence, the American officer sent along a copy of a fake diploma, a master of business administration, and a copy of a letter sent to American National University from one of their recent graduates.

Additionally, he enclosed promotional literature from the school that he had obtained, including a catalog listing 475 available degrees. An advertisement the lieutenant had clipped from a Saudi periodical read: "United States university degrees — for life experience and work experience — bachelors, masters and doctorate. College equivalent credits are given for your job, military, or company training, industrial courses, seminars or business experience. University credits accepted no matter when or where courses were taken. No classroom attendance required. (Information is also available about high school diplomas by independent study.)"

Intrigued, special agent Ezell was sent away for admissions material and later enrolled in a fictitious course to acquire a masters in business administration. For fee of \$1,985 and a few pages outlining his "life experiences" — though skipping the part about being a spy for the Justice Ministry — Mr. Ezell picked up a handsome diploma, transcripts indicating that he was a model student, employment references, and an order form for his class ring. In an interview at his Charlotte, North

Rock star Zappa returns

By Raymond Gijzen
Reuters

STUTTGART — Frank Zappa, in the 20th year of a career which has made him a category unto himself in the music business, has returned to the European stage after two years with little hope of being understood.

Since the release in 1965 of his debut album "Freak Out", the 43-year-old American guitarist and composer has gained a reputation for intricate musical compositions, an unusual sense of humour and an unrestrained choice of words applied to such diverse subjects as politics, religion, torture and fast food.

But Zappa has little hope that his musical mixture will strike a chord with his audiences here.

An his hotel room just before a concert, he told Reuters: "I write about a world people don't understand over here. I am using a language indigenous to the U.S. and I do whatever I can to explain it. But there is no way you can."

But this fails to put Zappa, the son of a chemist of Greek, Sicilian and Arab origin, off his music. "It is a pleasure for me to go on stage and play the guitar and entertain."

For the past two years Zappa has stayed largely away from the

stage, working with symphony orchestras, recording a Broadway show, a double rock album, two chamber music albums and one orchestral album, writing a book and lecturing.

Zappa's early songs include lyrics on racial riots in the Watts area of his hometown Los Angeles and the National Guard's shooting of students during protests at Kent University.

"I think of what I do as more like being a reporter, because little if anything in the text of my songs has anything to do with my own personal life or things that I do ... in contrast to other singer-songwriters who go out there and want to pour their heart out in order to get some sympathy from the world at large. That's not my idea of a good time," he said.

His 1976 album "Zoot Allures" includes "The Torture Never Stops", where a woman's screams are accompanied by a screeching guitar and descriptions of blood and vomit stained walls.

"If you're going to write a lyric, you might as well write about something you understand, or something that means something to you, or something you can deal with ... most of what I get to deal with is either unpleasant or not

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البحر في بيت

h National Rally set for Nov. 9

V. Vivekanand
to the Jordan Times

yal Automobile Club (RAC) of 35 to 40 cars to take part in the of the 1984 Jordan National held on Nov. 9, RAC General said Saturday.

same route and the first car is expected back at the RAC ground at about 11.30 a.m., Mr. Ledger said.

The second phase of the rally begins at 1.45 p.m. when the cars will follow the same route and special stages and return to the RAC. The first car is expected to be back at the RAC around 4.15 p.m.

The total distance involved in the Nov. 9 event is 190 kilometres; slightly less than the second round held in May and almost the same as the first round in February, although the routes are entirely different in the three rounds.

Most of the participants for the third round have also taken part in the Jordan International Rally in July, one of the qualifying rounds for the Middle East Rally Championship. Mohammad Ibn Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates and Michael Salah of Kuwait — both driving Toyota Celicas — were placed first and second in the Jordan round of the rally while Saeed Al Hajri of Qatar, driving a Porsche, came third. Jepson, Walker and Aguilar also won distinctions in the event.

The Jordan National Rally Championship, which was held last in 1966 and now planned by the RAC to be an annual event, is



A view of the tough terrain and winding roads involved in the Jordan National Rally (J.T. photo)

confined to Jordanians and permanent foreign residents of the Kingdom. Mr. Ledger expressed the opinion that the spirit of rallying has been steadily growing over the years in Jordan and cited the large number of "proper rally cars" in the country as a pointer to the growing number of rally enthusiasts.

"In fact, the number of equipped rally cars taking part in the Nov. 9 event is more than that of the Oman International Rally" — another qualifying round for the Middle East Rally Championship. Mr. Ledger said.

Participant cars in the Jordan National Rally are grouped into several categories based on the

size of the engine and rally specifications. The drivers are also categorised according to their experience in rallying and whether they are taking part in such an event for the first time. Mr. Ledger said.

Earlier this month, a British rallying expert, Bill Gwynne, visited Jordan and offered special training to a number of local drivers. Each driver underwent the two-day course in the desert and "judging from what they told me they were all most satisfied and happy with what the British expert could provide them with, in terms of driving skills and rallying," Mr. Ledger added.

Apparently, the RAC considers

the Jordan National Rally as one of its most prestigious annual events and is exerting all its efforts behind organising the event. At least that is the impression one gets after visiting the RAC offices near the Eighth Circle where photographs and posters of rallies and rally vehicles occupy some of the most prominent places.

Daihatsu, a leading Japanese carmaker, is sponsoring the third round of the 1984 Jordan National Rally Championship while earlier rounds were sponsored by Petra Bank, the British Bank of the Middle East and Beituna Corporation for Housing and Investment.

Everton crushes United

LONDON (R) — Everton completed one of the finest weeks in their history with a resounding 5-0 home win over Manchester United in the English first division Saturday.

With League leaders Arsenal going down 3-1 at West Ham and Sheffield Wednesday falling 1-0 at lowly Coventry, Everton moved from fourth to second place, just one point behind Arsenal.

Everton's win followed a rare victory over Liverpool at Anfield seven days ago and a mature performance in Czechoslovakia on Wednesday which earned them a 1-0 win over Inter Bratislava in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Everton, full of confidence, controlled the game from the start. Two goals by Kevin Sheedy in the first 25 minutes, another by Adrian Heath 10 minutes later and two in the last 10 minutes

from Gary Stevens and Graeme Sharp sent them away in good heart for Tuesday, when the two sides meet again in the League Cup at United's Old Trafford home.

United had both Gordon Strachan and captain Bryan Robson booked — Strachan for dissent and Robson for a wild tackle on Heath.

As Everton flourished, their city neighbours Liverpool plunged to 20th position — one of the three relegation positions — after Norwich, Coventry and Leicester all won.

But Liverpool have the chance to haul themselves clear when they face Nottingham Forest Sunday.

Meanwhile Tottenham, beaten by Manchester United last week and by Belgian side Bruges in the UEFA Cup on Wednesday, bounced back with a comfortable 4-0 win over bottom club Stoke.

The result vindicated manager Peter Shreeves, who dropped striker Garth Crooks and midfielder man Mike Hazard in favour of Clive Allen and Glenn Hoddle.

Allen, who came on as substitute against Bruges and scored,

obliged again Saturday with two goals which helped carry Tottenham into third place, a point behind Everton. Nigerian international John Chiedozie and Graham Roberts with a penalty were the other marksmen for Tottenham.

Arsenal, weakened through injury to key players, fell behind to goals by Tony Cottee in the 29th minute and Paul Gooddard eight minutes later.

Although Ian Allinson, deputising for England striker Paul Mariner, pulled one back a minute before halftime Geoff Pike sealed the Gunners' fate in the 49th minute.

Newcastle manager Jack Charlton, rendered virtually speechless when his side drew 5-5 away to Queens' Park Rangers a month ago, must be wondering what happens to his defence when they venture south.

After leading 2-0 and then 3-2 at Watford, Newcastle had to settle for a 3-3 draw when Luther Blissett slotted home the equaliser just three minutes from time.

The result left Watford, still without a home win this season, in 21st position.

Jordan to host Arab volleyball

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will host and take part in the Third Arab Volleyball Championship starting here on Nov. 24. Taking part in the seven-day event will be Tunisia, Algeria, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, South Yemen and Kuwait. The participating teams were divided here Thursday into two groups the first comprising Tunisia, Palestine, Algeria and Iraq while the second comprising Jordan, Saudi Arabia, South Yemen and Kuwait. The opening match of the championship will be between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Jordan will play South Yemen on the second day and Kuwait on the third day.

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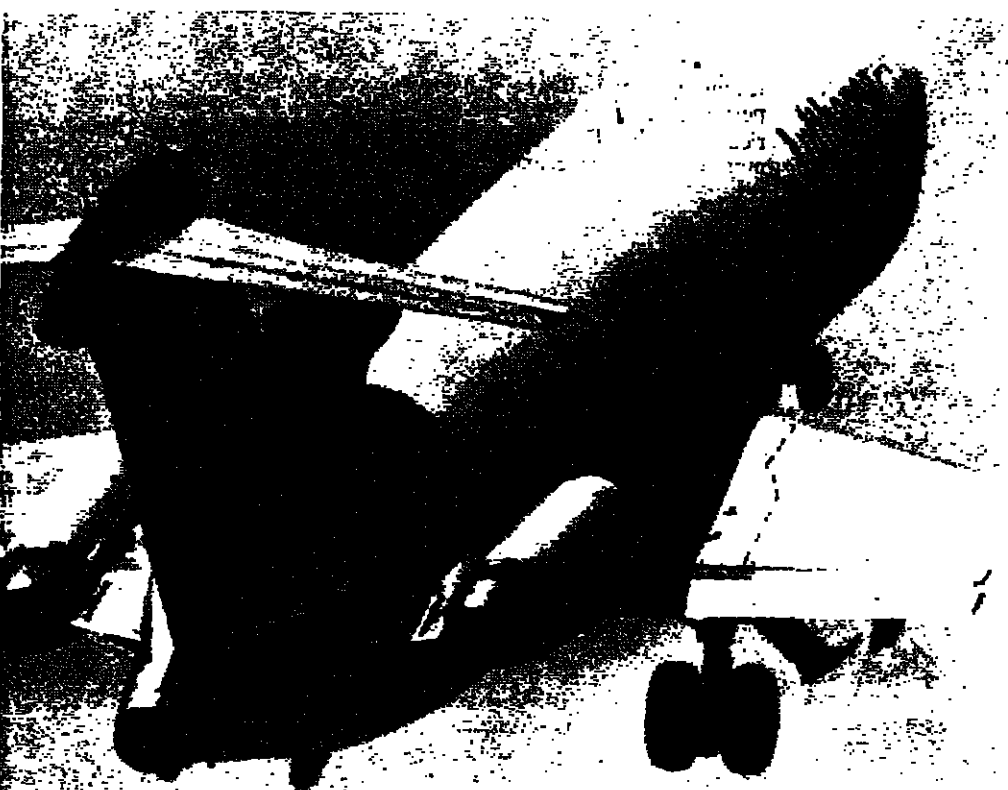
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SECOND: M. Raied; Owner Mohammad A. El Naby

THIRD: Maha; Owner Naiel Aly A. Sokoot.

THIRD RACE: For third class horses, distance 1400 metres

FIRST: Fraijih; Owner Mohammad Ahmad Kasim. Time 1.42 minutes.

SECOND: Kawakib; Owner Oudih El Kaisy

THIRD: J. El Mshakar; Owner A. Elsattar Matar.

SECOND RACE: For beginners, distance 1000 metres.

FIRST: Jihad; Owner A. Elsattar Matar. Time 1.11 minutes.

SECOND: Ghadeer; Owner Faisal Nashmy El Faiez.

THIRD: M. Wasfy; Owner Shibly Awad El Faiez.

FOURTH RACE: For beginners, distance 1600 metres.

FIRST: Ibnel Reeh; Owner Nimir El Hmoud. Time 1.57 minutes.

SECOND: Shams Amman; Owner Samy Haddadin.

THIRD: Mansour; Owner Fhaid Mitlak

FIFTH RACE: For third class horses, distance 1600 metres.

FIRST: Hussam; Owner Faisal Awad El Faiez. Time 1.52 minutes.

SECOND: Kas El Molook; Owner Faisal Awad El Faiez.

THIRD: Wadah, Owner Samy Haddadin.

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الطريق إلى...

IFAD chief threatens to quit in money row

PARIS (R) — The Colombian chairman of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) threatened to resign Saturday unless more money was made available to the United Nations agency.

An IFAD spokesman said Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, chairman of the IFAD governing council, announced his intention to quit in protest against a row between industrial nations and oil exporting countries over contributions.

The dispute over how much the two donor groups should pay into the fund for the next three years paralysed IFAD's annual meeting in Paris last week.

A last-ditch effort to reach agreement failed early Friday, delegates said.

Without a replenishment of its resources IFAD will run out of money by the end of this year.

"We will be a fund without funds. It means complete collapse," an agency official said.

IFAD was set up in 1977 as a specialised U.N. agency to aid rural development in the world's poorest countries. The official said after lending nearly \$2 billion in the past seven years the agency now had only about \$100 million left.

Delegates said the row centred on demands by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that industrial states should pay a higher share of contributions.

The fund currently draws 58 per cent of its resources from the 20 members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Twelve OPEC states pay the other 42 per cent but say they can no longer afford to do so.

For the next three years OPEC donors have offered \$295 million if OECD donors provide \$465 million, cutting the OPEC share to 39 per cent.

The OECD group originally offered \$405 million and later raised it to \$415 million, but this was rejected by the OPEC states. U.S. chief negotiator Mr. Richard Derham told Reuters.

Despite the deadlock Mr. Derham said he still believed a deal could be struck.

But IFAD officials said even if a compromise could be agreed before the end of the year, the fund would still face a crisis because the contributions would have to be approved by the governing council, which is not due to meet again for another year.

War risk insurance doubled for Saudi Arabian port

LONDON (R) — The war risk insurance premium for oil cargoes shipped from the Saudi Arabian port of Ras Tanurah has been doubled following recent attacks in the Gulf tanker war, marine insurance brokers said Friday.

Brokers say Ras Tanurah has now been included in the higher risk zone previously applied to ports on the west of the Gulf north of the Saudi port, but the overall rate has been reduced by 0.05 per cent to 0.2 per cent.

Shippers previously had to pay a 0.1 per cent premium on cargoes loaded at Ras Tanurah.

Both Iran and Iraq have re-

sisted on attacking oil tankers and other merchant shipping as part of their battle for supremacy in the four-year-old Gulf war.

Brokers said the war risk premium for western Gulf ports south of Ras Tanurah remained 0.1 per cent.

Across the Gulf, rates are unchanged with shippers charged two per cent for northern Iranian ports, apart from those right at the head of the Gulf.

Shippers wanting to venture to Iranian or Iraqi ports in the far north of the waterway, such as Bandar Khomeini, have to apply for a premium for each voyage.

European Commission releases food aid under '84 scheme

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission said Friday it had released food aid worth 43 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$32 million) for Third World countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

A commission spokesman said 114,000 tonnes of grains, 8,200 tonnes of skimmed milk powder, 1,900 tonnes of butter oil and 800 tonnes of vegetable oils would be shipped shortly under the commission's regular 1984 food aid programme.

Emphasis was put on aid to drought-hit countries in the Horn of Africa with a 25,000 tonne shipment of grains to Ethiopia and a shipment of 23,000 tonnes of grains, 2,800 tonnes of milk powder and 500 tonnes of butter oil to Somalia, he said.

Other large beneficiaries include Ghana, Tanzania and Kenya, the spokesman said.

The community's regular 1984 food aid programme, agreed in May, covers deliveries totalling 1.1 million tonnes of grains, 122,500 tonnes of milk powder, 32,800 tonnes of butter oil, 20,000 tonnes of vegetable oils and 160,000 tonnes of other commodities including sugar, fish meal and dried vegetables.

OPEC ministers gather for crucial attempt to regain hold of oil market

GENEVA (R) — OPEC oil producers, who have seen their power to dictate world prices gradually eroded over the past few years, were gathering here Saturday for a crucial attempt to regain control over the volatile market.

Oil ministers of the 13 Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will meet on Monday to consider a recommendation by Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani for a production cut to shore up the falling oil price.

Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto said on arrival earlier Saturday that any reduction in output would be in the range of one to three million barrels per day (b/d) from OPEC's current 17.5 million b/d ceiling.

Dr. Subroto said he thought a moderate production cut would be sufficient to stabilise the market, shaken by price cuts by non-OPEC members Norway and Britain and OPEC member Nigeria. Sheikh Yamani and ministers

from Algeria, Kuwait, Venezuela, Libya and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and non-OPEC members Egypt and Mexico, here for preparatory meetings last Monday and Tuesday, said they were determined to hold the \$29 a barrel official OPEC price by cutting production.

Egypt and Mexico were due to attend the full conference as observers to stress shared concern for stability and were reported by Sheikh Yamani to be ready to reduce their own output along with OPEC.

Delegates said the alternative of lowering prices could spell the end of OPEC's power, already undermined by a \$5 price cut 18 months ago under market pressure.

The full conference will have to decide how much OPEC oil should be withdrawn from world markets and how to share out the cuts among member states, many of them badly strapped for cash.

OPEC's market monitoring committee meets Sunday under UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba to recommend production levels to Monday's meeting.

Dr. Subroto, a member of the committee, said he thought only a small reduction was necessary because of an expected surge in winter demand in Europe and North America. This could take total demand for OPEC oil in the last quarter to 18.5-19 million b/d, compared with the current 17.5-18 million b/d.

Sheikh Yamani said after visiting Lagos earlier this week that he was confident Nigeria would return to the fold very shortly.

OPEC delegates said Sheikh Yamani believed a cut in production would firm up the market enough to allow Nigeria to raise its

price again.

But Nigerian Oil Minister Tam David-West said Saturday before setting off for Geneva that he had made no promises to revise Nigeria's decision.

Lagos is unhappy about its partners' reluctance to consider a narrowing of the premiums in the OPEC price structure for high-quality crude oil such as its own, delegates said.

High-quality light crude oils now fetch only about \$1 more than the average barrel of OPEC crude compared with a theoretical \$3 differential in the formal price.

The delegates said Nigeria was expected to bring up once again the question of differentials which have given its competitors, mainly Britain and Norway, an edge over Nigeria.

They expected this to be a most difficult discussion as it would involve a reshuffle of the comparative values of virtually all OPEC crudes.

U.S. banks cut prime lending rate

NEW YORK (R) — Major U.S. banks Friday lowered their prime lending rates to 12 per cent from 12.5 per cent, citing a decline in banks' costs of borrowing money.

It was the second major round of cuts this month in the rate which banks charge their most creditworthy corporate customers, and provided more good economic news for President Reagan as he campaigns for reelection on Nov. 6.

Many banks dropped the rate to 12.5 per cent from 12.75 per cent on Oct. 16.

Chase, Citibank, Morgan Guaranty, Chemical, First Chicago and Bankers Trust were among those announcing rate cuts Saturday.

The reduction appeared to have little immediate impact on U.S. financial markets.

The dollar, which would ordinarily be expected to slide on news of interest rate cuts, was climbing at midday in New York.

At noon it stood at 3.035 West German marks, up from Thursday's close 3.015. The British pound was trading at \$1.221 compared to Thursday's close at \$1.225.

U.S. credit markets were mostly lower at midday and Wall Street

share prices were down about six points.

Analysts said they had expected the prime rate decline.

"We were expecting a cut to 12 per cent because it was called for with the cuts in short-term rates," said Mr. David Wynn of Data Resources, an economic consulting firm. "But this could be the last cut for a while. We think it's the last for the year."

"We expect the economy will show signs of picking up in the fourth quarter. Retail sales look like they're coming back. The U.S. Treasury will be borrowing a lot this year. That means less money available for other people to borrow," he added.

Relatively high interest rates persisting well into the current economic recovery have been one of the few clouds remaining on Mr. Reagan's political horizon, and the latest declines were welcome news for the administration less than two weeks before election day.

Critics of Mr. Reagan's economic policies have linked high interest rates to the big federal budget deficits in the \$175 billion range, but administration officials have contended there is no direct connection.

SELA calls for urgent changes in U.S. economic policy

Meanwhile, Latin American and Caribbean nations called for urgent changes in U.S. economic policy Friday saying its protectionist aspects were seriously affecting the region's economy and political stability.

The call was among some 40 resolutions approved by the Latin American Economic System (SELA) during a three-day meeting in Caracas.

"Washington's policy of fiscal deficits and high interest rates has forced major capital transfers from Latin American debtor nations and effectively meant the region is financing U.S. prosperity," SELA President Juan Manuel Villaseca said.

The economic grouping's observations on protectionism and high interest rates will be presented formally to Washington in the near future, Mr. Villaseca told Reuters.

Among them is a strong statement of concern over a new trade law approved by the U.S. Congress which would restrict the access of developing country exports to the Generalised system of

Preferences (GSP).

The SELA resolution passed Friday calls on Washington to avoid any new restrictions on imports from developing countries, to dismantle existing ones, and reconsider protectionist measures such as countervailing duties and anti-dumping rules.

The 25-nations grouping also approved a decision to suspend trade talks with the European Community pending prospects of real progress, and to explore new trade links with the Communist Bloc, Scandinavian countries, and Japan.

Latin American negotiators in Brussels broke off talks in the face of growing protectionist moves against imports from the region, particularly food products.

However, Villaseca, who is planning and economy minister of Costa Rica, said talks on trade, technology and financial cooperation between Central America and the European Community will continue and an outline agreement should be ready in a few months.

The theme of Latin America's \$350 billion debt, which dominated a SELA-sponsored conference in Quito last January, was quietly dropped at this meeting.

Omani oil production reaches new record quarterly high

MUSCAT (R) — Oil production in non-OPEC member Oman reached a record quarterly high with an average of 414,000 barrels per day (b/d) from July to September this year, official sources said Saturday.

Production has been rising gradually from a 1980 low of about 280,000 b/d, mainly to maintain government revenues in the face of falling prices.

The figure for the third quarter of 1984 was 38.1 million barrels, a 2.7 per cent increase over the second quarter figure of 37.1 million.

Production in the third quarter of 1983 was 36.9 million.

Cypriot trade deficit rises despite increase in exports

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus' trade deficit jumped 31.5 per cent to 325.3 million Cypriot pounds (\$522 million) in the first eight months of 1984 from the same period last year despite a 36.7 per cent rise in exports, a government report said.

Imports rose to 552.6 million pounds (\$886.6 million) from 413.7 million pounds (\$663.8 million). One reason was the purchase from France of two Airbus for 60 million pounds (\$96.3 million).

Exports, mainly to Europe and the Arab World, rose to 227.2 million pounds (\$364.5 million) from 166.3 million pounds (\$266.8 million) on strong performances by potatoes, tinned goods, travel goods and clothing.

Firewood crisis poses grave threat

WASHINGTON (R) — Firewood, the chief source of energy for the world's poor, is burning up too fast to be replaced, a U.N.-sponsored report said Saturday.

In many poor countries over 90 per cent of energy comes from burning wood and when calculations of future needs are made "the results are shocking," said a report by Earthscan.

Tree planting must be increased up to 20 times to meet rapidly growing demand, a prospect "far beyond any realistic possibility," it added.

Earthscan, part of the International Institute for Environment and Development, suggested that the crisis might never be solved and only policies to reduce firewood demand would save the day.

"For those who are really poor, the depletion of formerly free firewood supplies means that fuel joins food, water and housing on the list of basic needs that are satisfied with great trouble," it said.

"Because poor people cannot afford alternatives, wood remains the main fuel even in areas where forests are rapidly disappearing."

African projects collapse

Earthscan said that despite relatively successful tree-planting programmes in China and South Korea, the plight of Africa had become desperate as projects collapsed and people resisted the schemes.

Some farmers in Africa said trees grown near crops provided a haven for seed-eating birds. Others feared tree-planting lowered the water table.

The report said that in rural areas tree-planting projects should be undertaken with the cooperation of villagers but social reform and development were also needed to decrease the demand for firewood.

While Earthscan suggested strategies such as these to deal with the crisis, its forecast for the future was pessimistic.

"Poor people in much of Africa, Asia and Latin America will be able to cook their meals only at tragic costs for themselves and the environment," it said.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds you able to continue with the opportunity to extend your interests and activities. Get a fresh start at the practical phases of your worldly ambitions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Formulate a new course of action which you can later take to an expert. Be sure to drive with special care today.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Use a new system for organizing your responsibilities. Contact persons who can best help you to advance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) State your need for more backing from a partner and you can easily get it. Take your loved one out for a good time.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Join with an associate for the pleasure you both desire. Take any health treatments to become stronger.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you assist a partner to gain own goals, you will get more cooperation from others. Stay home this evening with kin.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A good day to plan recreations for the future that can be greatly enjoyed. Stop hiding your light under the proverbial bushel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Strengthen the foundation of your living so that you have greater security in the future. Remember that life is what you make it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make those new arrangements for greater profits from work. You are able to get needed data from partners.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Handle your activities sensibly and you can have more of life's goodies. Contact business persons and state aims.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use your best judgment and good hunches in business. Go about socially where bigwigs are to gain favor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be concerned with important personal matters today and forget about trying to have fun. Be more practical.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you do something special for your friends, you find that many favors can be bestowed upon you.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will do well at whatever is practical and be a fine organizer. Teach early to be more cooperative with others and not so aggressive. See to it that school work gets done on time and accurately. Don't neglect spiritual training.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNHAM

PEROW

LOUBED

SEELAW

WHAT EVE SAID WHEN ASKED WHETHER SHE STILL LOVED HIM.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

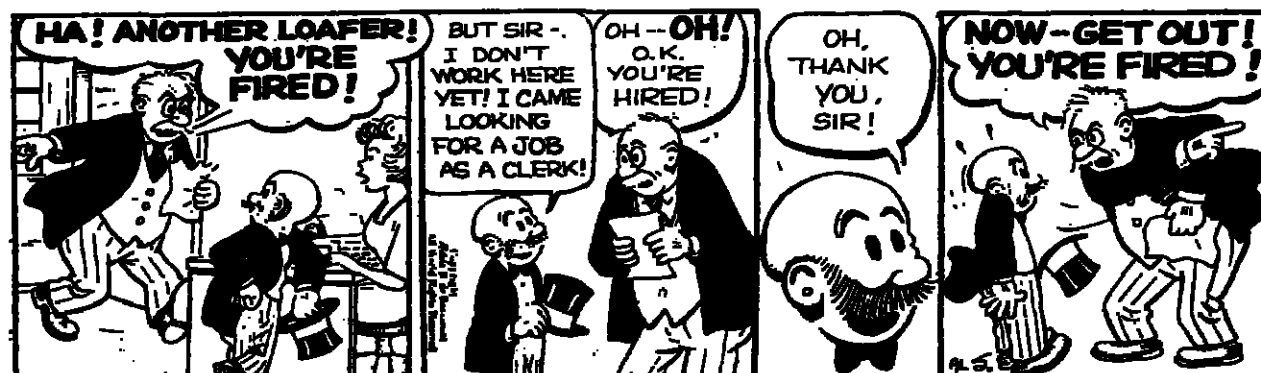
Jumbles: YTING WAGON MINGLE SNTCH

Answer: What the nonsensical boxer had trouble finding—THE "WEIGHIN"

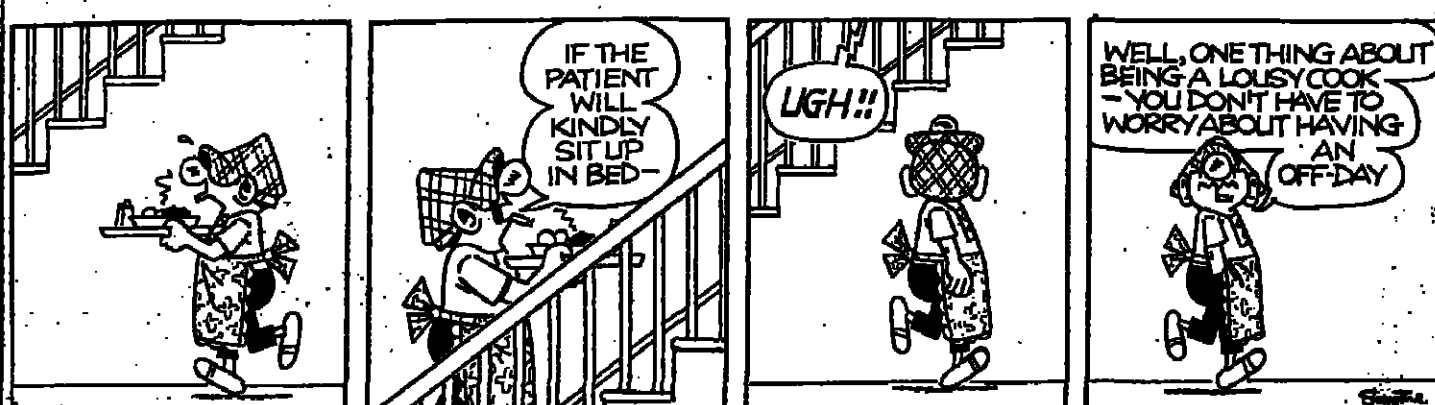
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword By Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

1 Large area in Africa

7 Vernon of a dancing team

13 Threepenny

14 Cuddly

16 Joint

17 Teacher's aide

18 Reminders

19 Flavorful

21 Timetable abbr.

22 Chess

23 Turk. money

24 Son of Aphrodite

25 Exclamation of triumph

26 More depressed

27 Carpenter's tool

28 Regards highly

30 Of greater height

31 Trismeg

32 "—, blabber"

33 Very nearly

36 Course of study

39 Distributed

40 Catches the breath

41 Lumber vehicle

43 Small amounts

44 Blouse

45 — out (anathemat)

46 Hagen the actress

47 —-er

48 Island in the Aegean

49 Most depressed

51 Instruction books

53 State

54 Kind of scout

55 Smart

56 Commences

DOWN

1 Gr. chore movement

2 Brittle-like structures

3 Apatites

4 Cuckoo

5 Rudiment

6 Small white flowers

7 Portable dwelling

8 To have: Fr.

9 Beach stuff

10 Presider of court or pod

11 Verbatim

12 Environmental area

15 Student item

18 Indonesian boat

20 Primates

21 On one's loss

24 Glasgow's author

26 Beauty's friend

27 Eur. city

28 Contents of a chest

30 Provokes in a way

32 Diner courses

33 Rectify

34 Outfit for dancing

35 Man in the caride

36 Levant knot

37 Sustenance

38 Explosive holes

40 "Elmer"—

42 Interfere

44 — up (seams)

45 Shore bird

47 — up (weeps)

48 Room in a casa

50 Bomb's mother

52 Nosh

16 countries under pressure to make nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — Sixteen countries are under pressure to make nuclear weapons although for some it may be enough merely to appear to have them, according to a new U.S. study.

The report, by the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, says Libya, Israel, Iran, Cuba, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Argentina face the greatest pressure to acquire nuclear capability.

Factors influencing them include international prestige, fear of political advantage, fear of neighbours and a response to their nuclear activities.

The analysis identifies seven countries — Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, India, Pakistan and South Africa — as posing the greatest threat to nuclear proliferation and said except for Cuba each could have a stronger nuclear industrial base by 1995.

Having a stronger nuclear ind-

ustrial base "means that in principle each could test a device or produce nuclear warheads in less time than they could now," the report said.

It added: "It is commonly agreed a reasonably industrialised state with sufficient determination and financial resources and without interruption by other nations could produce some nuclear weapons within perhaps three to five years."

The report noted that no non-weapons state had tested a nuclear device since India in 1974 and said the worst fears about nuclear proliferation had not come true.

President John Kennedy foresaw a world of up to 25 nuclear states by the 1970s, but so far only

five countries have nuclear arsenals — the United States, Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

Although India tested a nuclear device it did not begin production. Israel is presumed to have a small arsenal, although its official position is ambiguous, the report said.

Some also suspect South Africa has or is close to possessing nuclear weapons, the report said.

Despite concern about the potential for nuclear proliferation, the report said many factors had prevented countries from acquiring nuclear capability in the past and these were likely to continue in the future.

It said some states, like Israel and South Africa, whose nuclear status was uncertain "may find more value in appearing to be going nuclear than in actually achieving that goal, which if accomplished brings penalties as well as rewards."

Other impediments include international treaties committing states to non-proliferation and a rising worldwide antipathy against nuclear weapons that makes it likely "any would-be nuclear weapons state would be shunned by many other states and its political standing would suffer."

U.S. efforts to restrict nuclear exports have had some success in curbing nuclear proliferation as had the slump in the nuclear power plant market, the report said.

The report's author, Warren Donnelly, said it seemed likely Israel, India, Pakistan and South Africa would continue developing nuclear capabilities.

"About all that can be said now is that barring collapse of the world's industrial economies and civilisation, there will be many more nations able to make nuclear explosives in the long term," he said.

W. Berlin plans to fly back asylum seekers

WEST BERLIN (R) — West Berlin authorities, unable to cope with a flood of asylum seekers, say they will pay for would-be exiles from Sri Lanka and Ghana to leave the city.

Social Affairs Minister Ulf Fink said a group of Sri Lankan Tamils would be flown to the Indian city of Bombay on Wednesday because they feared persecution in their own country. A group of Ghanaians would also be flown home to Accra.

City officials said asylum seekers were being asked to join the scheduled flights voluntarily and they hoped at least 100 people would take up the offer, the first since 1981.

Mr. Fink told reporters the scheme had been adopted because West Berlin was unable to provide basic services such as housing for the flood of foreigners seeking asylum there.

He said numbers had escalated since Sweden, France and Switzerland altered their immigration

policies. Some 8,800 people had applied for asylum this year, including 1,491 in October alone.

Mr. Fink said about 40 per cent of asylum seekers came from Sri Lanka, 20 per cent from Ghana and 20 per cent from Lebanon.

The favourite route into West Berlin is via Communist East Berlin, since authorities in the Western part of the divided city do not check travellers for identity papers or visas.

West Germany tightened its rules on asylum two years ago in a bid to stem the flow of foreigners and speed up the processing of applications.

Foreigners must show strong political grounds for seeking asylum and Mr. Fink said only about 0.2 per cent of Ghanaians applications were being approved.

Officials said West Berlin was also planning to place advertisements in Sri Lankan and Ghanaian newspapers to try to dissuade people from coming to the city.

Solidarity activist claims kidnapped priest is alive

WARSAW (R) — A Solidarity activist at the church of kidnapped priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko said Saturday he had been told the anti-government cleric was alive but declined to reveal his source for security reasons.

Seweryn Jaworski told journalists: "Father Popieluszko is alive but he is threatened with being transported abroad."

Father Jozef Nowakowski, a priest in Torun near where the abduction took place on Oct. 19, quoted a local prosecutor's department official as saying they were also convinced Fr. Popieluszko was alive.

Fr. Nowakowski said the official believed Fr. Popieluszko was being held at a camp site in the area.

The prosecutor's department in Torun refused to comment but

Nowakowski said: "We are beginning to be really optimistic."

Government Spokesman Jerzy Urban told Reuters: "I do not know anything about this but we are interested in all the signals because the most important thing is to find him."

"I suggest that if the person who informs you knows anything, he should tell the prosecutor."

Mr. Jaworski did not indicate Fr. Popieluszko's whereabouts and his reference to the priest's threatened removal abroad caused puzzlement.

The government has tried to persuade political opponents in the past to go into voluntary exile but the authorities have described the Popieluszko case as an act of banditry and have joined the church in condemning it.

Marcos reacts to U.S. pressure over Aquino

MANILA (R) — President Ferdinand Marcos reacted sharply Saturday to signs of U.S. pressure for action on a report linking the Philippine Armed Forces chief of staff and other commanders with the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

Gen. Fabian Ver, 64, kinsman and close confidant of the president, took temporary leave of absence on Wednesday after the majority report of an official investigation said he and 25 others were implicated in Sen. Aquino's murder 14 months ago.

Mr. Marcos, responding to suggestions that Washington is pre-

ssing for action on the report, declared: "We are not pet dogs."

"We are not doing things here in order to satisfy either the State Department or the Americans but in order to meet the requirements of the rule of law provided for in our own constitution," he told a meeting of the Army Reserve Command.

Mr. Marcos praised Gen. Ver for his "admirable conduct," but he also tried to raise military morale by saying Gen. Ver's departure created no vacuum in operations against Communist guerrillas, secessionists and criminal syndicates.

Ershad postpones elections indefinitely

DHAKA (R) — President Hosain Mohammad Ershad Saturday ordered the indefinite postponement of parliamentary elections planned for December, the Bangladesh government announced.

"In consideration of the prevailing situation in the country, the chief martial law administrator has been pleased to direct the postponement of elections to parliament until further orders," the statement said.

A.R. Yusuf, special assistant to the president told Reuters earlier that the polls, due on Dec. 8, would be postponed to give the government further time to try to persuade opposition parties to

take part.

Two major opposition alliances comprising 22 political parties launched a two-week series of protests and rallies Saturday to press demands for an end to martial law, and the setting up of an interim government before elections are held.

Opposition leaders have said that unless their demands are met they will boycott the elections and hold a protest strike or "hartal" on election day.

Mr. Yusuf said democracy could not be restored without elections and they would not be effective unless all major political parties agreed to take part.

"It will be a postponement, not a

Bolivian troops raid 3 cocaine ranches

TRINIDAD, Bolivia (R) — Airborne troops of a crack anti-drugs squad have stormed three ranches in the Bolivian lowlands owned by "cocaine king" Roberto Suarez Gomez and seized 400 kilograms of pure cocaine.

Authorities told journalists along on the 450 kilometre flight north east from the capital, La Paz, to witness the raids.

The operation took place as President Hernan Siles Zuazo, under fire for an alleged link to Suarez Gomez, began a hunger strike on behalf of national unity.

About 150 members of the elite Leopards Squad were flown in on two helicopter gunships and seven light aircraft supported by a Hercules cargo plane and a Fokker jet.

A Reuters correspondent saw no resistance. Two of the ranches

were recently abandoned and the occupants of the third fled as the helicopters landed.

The operation was launched hours after Congress voted 70-61 on Wednesday night in favour of a probe into contacts between Suarez Gomez and the country's former top anti-drugs official.

The resolution accused Mr. Siles Zuazo, sworn in two years ago after 18 years of military rule, of authorising a meeting last year between former national anti-narcotics council President Rafael Otaño and Suarez Gomez.

Mr. Siles Zuazo denied having advance knowledge of the meeting.

Interior Ministry Under-Secretary Gustavo Sanchez, who led the raids together with Mr. Otaño's replacement, Col. Carlos Fernandez, said they were proof



TENDING THE HUNGRY: Dr. George Ngizil, a Kenyan, examines a starving baby at the famine relief centre run by World Vision International, at Alamata, 140 kilometres north of the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa recently. Dr. Ngizil estimated that between ninety and one hundred people — mostly children — were dying at the camp each day, while 100,000 others wait for the handouts of food that keeps them barely alive (AP wirephoto)

Agca disclosed plot to kill Walesa, then withdrew testimony, paper says

NEW YORK (R) — Mehmet Ali Agca, jailed for attempting to assassinate Pope John Paul in 1981, withdrew detailed testimony on an alleged plot to kill Polish Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa, the New York Times reported Saturday.

But the details of the Walesa plot, contained in 100 pages of secret testimony by Agca, were so precise that it cast doubt on his change of heart, the paper said.

Agca "offered a wealth of detail about a plot on Mr. Walesa ... most of which has not been published before," the New York Times reported.

"Many of these details were confirmed by the police, by the

man who invited Mr. Walesa to visit Rome, where the plot to kill him purportedly unfolded, and by one of the Bulgarians accused of conspiring to kill the Pope," it said.

Agca alleged during questioning by Italian magistrates that he and two Bulgarians planned to detonate a bomb outside Walesa's hotel, reporter Claire Sterling, who has been investigating the assassination attempt on the Pope, said.

Mr. Walesa visited Rome in January, 1981, four months before Agca shot and wounded the Pope in St. Peter's Square.

Three Bulgarians committed for trial Friday on charges of con-

spiring to kill the Pope were implicated in the plot to kill Mr. Walesa, the newspaper said. Four Turks were also committed.

The New York Times reported that Agca told the investigating magistrate "that he was approached in December 1980 to kill Mr. Walesa by Major Zhelevo K. Vasilev, the Bulgarian military attaché's secretary in Rome."

He told the prosecutor he attended two meetings to discuss killing the Polish leader at the home of Todor Atanasov, a second Bulgarian. The third Bulgarian was Sergei Antonov, who was present both times, the New York Times said.

Mondale slipping further behind as elections near

WASHINGTON (R) — Time is running out for Democrat Walter Mondale as his chances of pulling off a surprise win in the U.S. presidential election look daily more remote.

With just nine days to go to polling day even his own campaign assessments show him slipping further behind Republican President Reagan.

Most commentators suggest Mr. Mondale is now in the position of working merely to avoid a complete landslide for the incumbent.

But barnstorming through up to five campaign stops a day, he still insists he can win. "I'm giving this campaign everything I've got. I don't care what the polls say," he said Friday.

The opinion polls say Mr. Mondale is up to 25 percentage points behind Mr. Reagan and even the Democrats say their man is ahead in only four of the 50 states.

Mr. Mondale was expected to take his increasingly scalding attacks on the administration to California, the president's home state where Mr. Reagan has never lost an election.

California has the biggest block of electoral college votes — which rather than the popular vote decide the outcome of the election — and Mr. Mondale will have to win there to win.

He had to brush off suggestions in the Midwest Friday that only honour was left for him in a campaign against the most widely popular president of recent years.

"We'll win, because we're right," he declared.

He showed his determination with some of his most vigorous attacks on Mr. Reagan in a campaign that started out in almost gentlemanly fashion but has now taken on a more bitter tone.

He blasted Mr. Reagan as a "sunshine president" interested only in winners like Olympic gold medalists and U.S. troops which invaded the Caribbean island of Grenada a year ago to push a Cuban-backed government.

He attacked Mr. Reagan for celebrating the first anniversary of the Grenada operation while not marking that of the deaths of 241 servicemen in a bomb attack on Beirut last October.

U.S. group attacks scope of 'Star Wars' programme

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's "Star Wars" plan to seek ways of destroying Soviet missiles in flight could cost up to \$800 billion and prompt an escalation in the arms race, a private study group has said.

The Council on Economic Priorities (CEP), which groups leaders of industry, labour, religion and education, also said increasing research on lasers and other defensive weapons could create a shortage of scientists and engineers in non-military fields.

Based on government estimates that the Pentagon will spend \$24 billion on research for the programme, the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), over the next five years, the report said the cost of actually deploying systems to destroy perhaps hundreds of Soviet warheads "could range from \$400 to \$800 billion."

But Gen. James Abrahamson, head of the SDI programme, told reporters it was unfair and premature to give final cost figures since no decisions had been made on what a missile defence system would include.

"It is clearly going to be an expensive programme," he said at a briefing called to respond to the council's report.

"I believe the decision we are making is a responsible one. I would like to have a number (on cost) but it is impossible at this point."

Gen. Abrahamson said a missile defence system would be aimed primarily at destroying Soviet rockets in the boost phase as they were launched. He said this would make it easier for other defensive

systems to seek and destroy individual warheads after they were released from surviving missiles in flight.

The council conceded that its huge cost estimate was an "educated guess." But it said the calculations were based on the historical relationship between costs for research and development and final procurement of systems such as the space shuttle and the U.S. man-on-the-moon programme.

The report recommended that Congress slow funding for research into the SDI, which was dubbed "Star Wars" by the media after Mr. Reagan announced the programme last year.

A major question also raised in the report was whether defensive weapons could be effective against hundreds of warheads and whether they could protect population centres as well as missile bases.

"Even if an effective defence is found, it will mean an explosion of offensive weapons to overwhelm the defence," said former CIA official Herbert Scoville, a council consultant.

Stephen Daggett, a scientist and one of the report's authors, said there were problems with both ground-based and space-based anti-missile systems.

"Satellite and space components of any kind of defensive system are sitting ducks," he said. "You could also just aim a mass of cruise missiles at a ground-based radar system for defensive weapons."

Mr. Daggett and Robert Degrasse, the report's co-author, said they were not condemning all forms of anti-missile systems.

COLUMN

Women drivers are better than men

LONDON (R) — Women drivers are better and safer than men, says an insurance company, backing this assertion with a 12 per cent discount on premiums to female motorists. The Halifax Insurance Group says its "safer sex" road policies are supported by figures on accidents from the British Insurance Association. Statistics show that women are better and safer drivers than men, says Deputy Managing Director Peter Wright. "They drive less. They don't drive as quickly and make men they don't seem to drink and drive. They're a much better bet." Even when a woman driver has an accident, it tends to be less severe than for a male driver, the firm says.

FBI figure shows decline in crime

WASHINGTON (R) — Serious crime in the United States declined five per cent in the first half of the year, continuing a downward trend started in 1982, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Saturday. Violent crimes such as murder, rape and robbery dropped by two per cent while property crimes like burglary and theft fell by five per cent, the FBI said. Despite the overall decline, the FBI said rape increased by six per cent and arson by two per cent. During the presidential election campaign, Reagan administration officials have often taken credit for turning the tide in the fight against crime, with a decline of three per cent in 1982 and seven per cent last year, the largest drop in 23 years. "We have emphasised efforts against drug trafficking, violent crime and organised crime," said Attorney General William French Smith. "Law enforcement at the federal, state and local levels is achieving unprecedented success."

Singapore clamps down on illegal immigrants

SINGAPORE (R) — Foreigners who stay illegally in Singapore for long periods will be jailed for at least six months under a new bill awaiting parliamentary approval. The bill, details of which were published Saturday, also imposed a similar mandatory jail term against illegal immigrants and anyone who gives them work or shelter. People who bring "prohibited immigrants" into Singapore will be fined and jailed for at least two years. Singapore has about 150,000 foreign workers, most of them from neighbouring Malaysia. Other South East Asian countries and the Indian subcontinent also provide a labour pool.

Young French actress dies

PARIS (AP) — Pascale Ogier, the French actress who won the best acting award at the recent Venice Film Festival, died Thursday night at the home of a friend, her agent confirmed Friday. She was 24. The body was transferred to the Paris city morgue where officials said a "routine autopsy" had been ordered to determine the exact cause of death. Miss Ogier won the Venice award for the role of Louise in Eric Rohmer's *Les Nuits de la pleine lune* (Nights of the Full Moon). She began her acting career in 1978 in another Rohmer film, *Perceval Le Gallois* (Perceval the Gaul), and also played at the Amateurs Theatre in Nanterre. In 1982, with her mother, she filmed *Pierre Zola's Le Pont du Nord* (the North Bridge) and in 1983, in *Signes Extérieurs de Richesse* (Evidence of Wealth) made by Jacques Monnet.

Former Vietnamese prime minister named as crime boss

NEW YORK (R) — A hooded witness before the president's commission on organised crime named former South Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky Thursday as the leader of four gangs that prey on Vietnamese refugees in the United States. Mr. Ky bitterly denounced the charge as a lie. The witness, identified only as an ex-member of one of the gangs, told a commission hearing in New York that he was informed of Mr. Ky's leadership role by one of his bosses. He did not offer other evidence than to say Mr. Ky's alleged involvement was general knowledge in the Vietnamese community.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR CHANCES

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ Q6
♥ 87
♦ KJ64
♣ AJ1043

WEST EAST
♠ Void ♠ KJ8753
♥ Q43 ♥ 95
♦ AQ10952 ♦ 73
♣ Q762 ♣ K95

SOUTH
♠ A10942
♥ AKJ1062
♦ 8
♣ 8

The bidding:
East South West North
2 ♣ 3 ♥ Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣.

You cannot allow declarer's lapses to go unpunished. See if you can spot declarer's error on this deal from the recent Spring North American Championships. The East-West cards were held by Karen McCallum of New York City and Vivian Whalen of Sea Cliff, N.Y.

East's decision to open with a weak two-bid in spades boomeranged when North-South stopped in three hearts — without the opening bid, most North-South pairs

got to game, and some even made it. Had North-South made nine tricks at hearts, East-West were booked for a very poor score.

West led a club, declarer rose with the ace in dummy and tried two high hearts. When the queen did not drop, she exited with a diamond. West hopped up with the ace, cashed the queen of hearts and reverted to clubs. Declarer ruffed and led a low spade to the queen and king. East returned the eight of spades to declarer's nine, and declarer continued with a low spade. Now East exited with a club, and declarer had no way to avoid losing another spade for down one.

When West is in with the ace of diamonds and exits with a club, that removes East's last safe exit. Now when East wins the second spade, she is end played and the contract is home.

U.S. denies bribing anti-Sandinista candidates

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (Agencies) — The Sandinista government has accused the United States of using threats and bribes to pressure opposition candidates to withdraw from the Nov. 4 elections. The U.S. embassy denies the accusation.

Interior Minister Tomas Borge admitted Friday he had no evidence to back up the charge but said the alleged actions are in line with suggestions in a CIA manual for "buying" Nicaraguans "to discredit and take away the legitimacy of the election."

Junta coordinator Daniel Ortega, the Sandinistas' presidential candidate, told a labour gathering Thursday night that U.S. embassy officials have made offers of "\$100,000 and \$20,000 to all registered candidates ... with the exception, of course, of the Sandinista front."

Embassy spokeswoman Susan Clide, in a telephone interview, said, "It is not true ... we haven't offered anything, nor have we pressured the candidates."

Mr. Ortega's accusation was repeated by Mr. Borge Friday, but under questioning by reporters, he said, "I have no evidence."

Meanwhile President Reagan said in an interview published Fri-

day he approves of American volunteers fighting to topple the leftist government of Nicaragua, calling such activity "a long, honorable tradition."

He compared private U.S. efforts on behalf of the Honduran-based "Contra" rebels against the Nicaraguan government to volunteering in the early stages of World War II and joining the Spanish Civil War.

"I have to say it's quite in line with what has been a pretty well established tradition in our country," he said, recalling the formation of a U.S. brigade to fight on the side of loyalists who supported the Spanish government against a military uprising led by Gen. Francisco Franco, eventual winner of a three-year civil war.

In an interview with the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, he cited Actor Robert Montgomery's work as an ambulance driver for the French army in World War II and the recruitment of U.S. pilots by formerly Nationalist-ruled China to an air wing known as the "Flying Tigers."

He said Nicaragua was trying to overthrow the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador and although he had not looked into the legality of private American cit-

izens helping the right-wing rebels, "I would be inclined to not want to interfere."

Two American volunteers were killed last month when a Contra helicopter was shot down over Nicaragua, and small groups based in Tennessee and Alabama have shipped supplies to and trained Contras.

Congress has rejected requests from Mr. Reagan to provide the Contras with further financial aid.

Asked about the morality of private Americans entering foreign conflicts, Mr. Reagan said: "Well, if you get into the moral issue of it, we were certainly tested with regard to the Spanish Civil War I mentioned. I would say that the individuals that went there in the opinions of most Americans were fighting on the wrong side."

Earthquake shakes Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (R) — An earthquake shook Los Angeles Friday, but seismologists reported no serious damage or casualties. A spokesman at the California Institute of Technology said the centre of the tremor was in the Pacific Ocean, about 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles.